Grecian Guild Studio Quarterly

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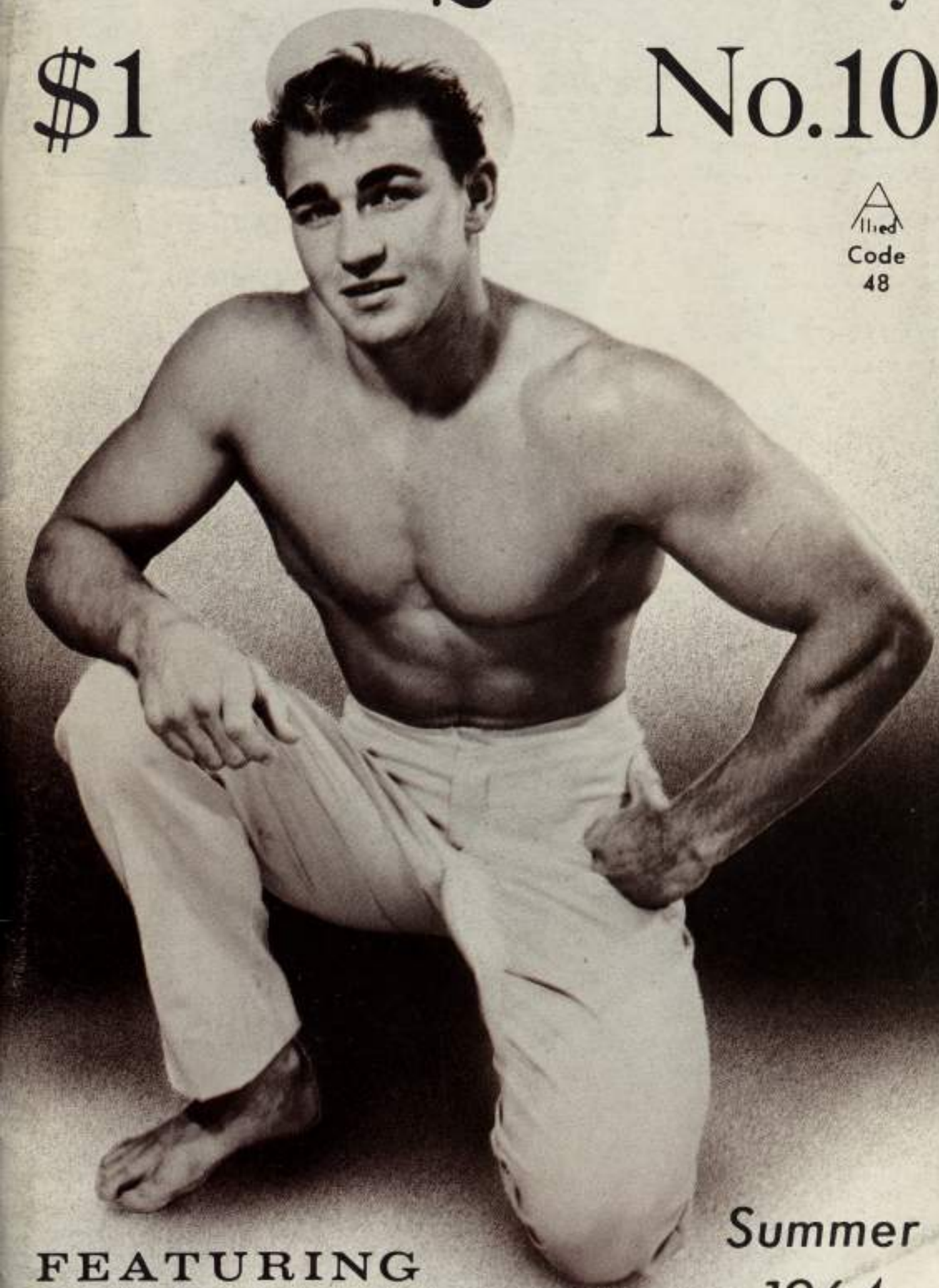

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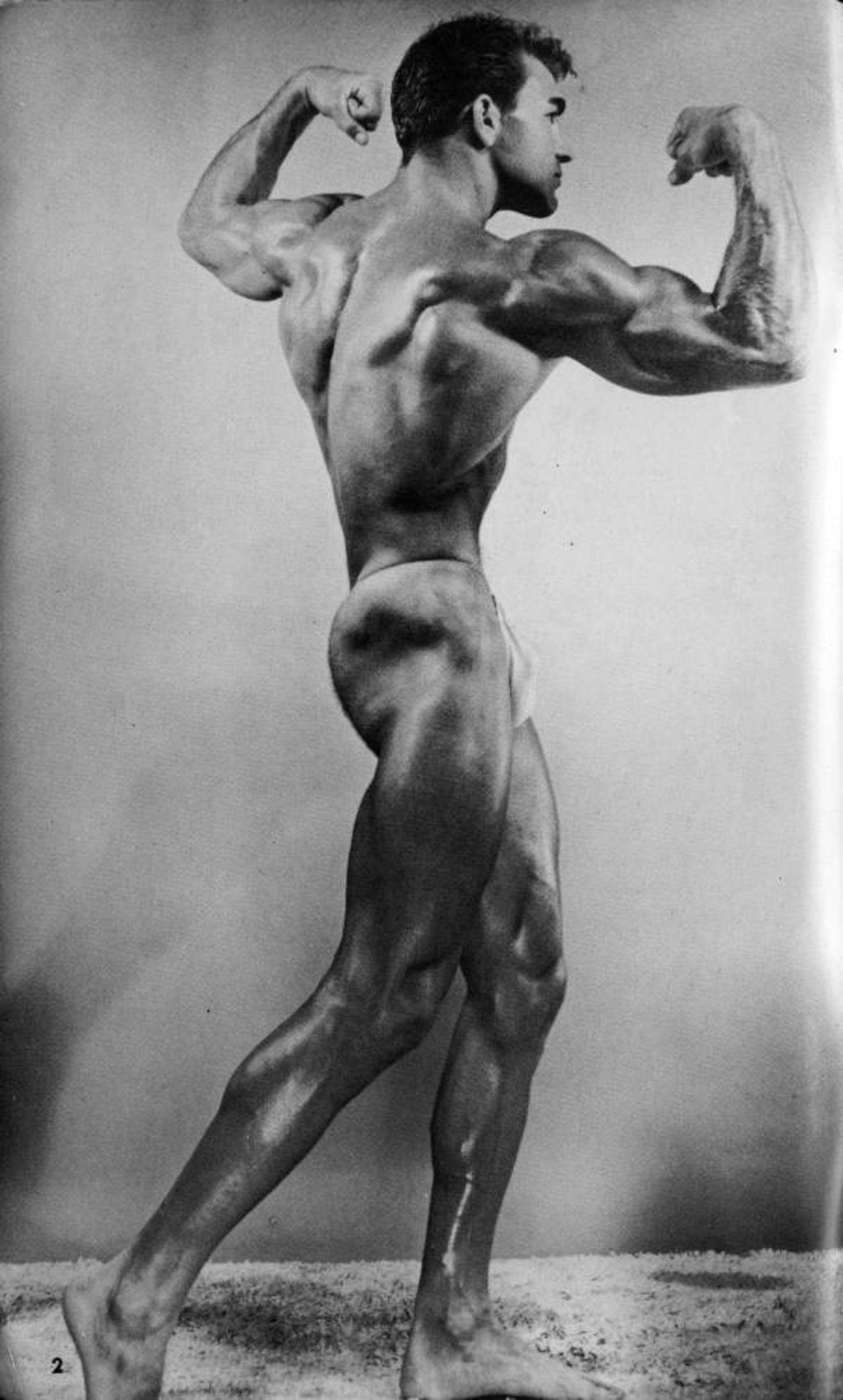

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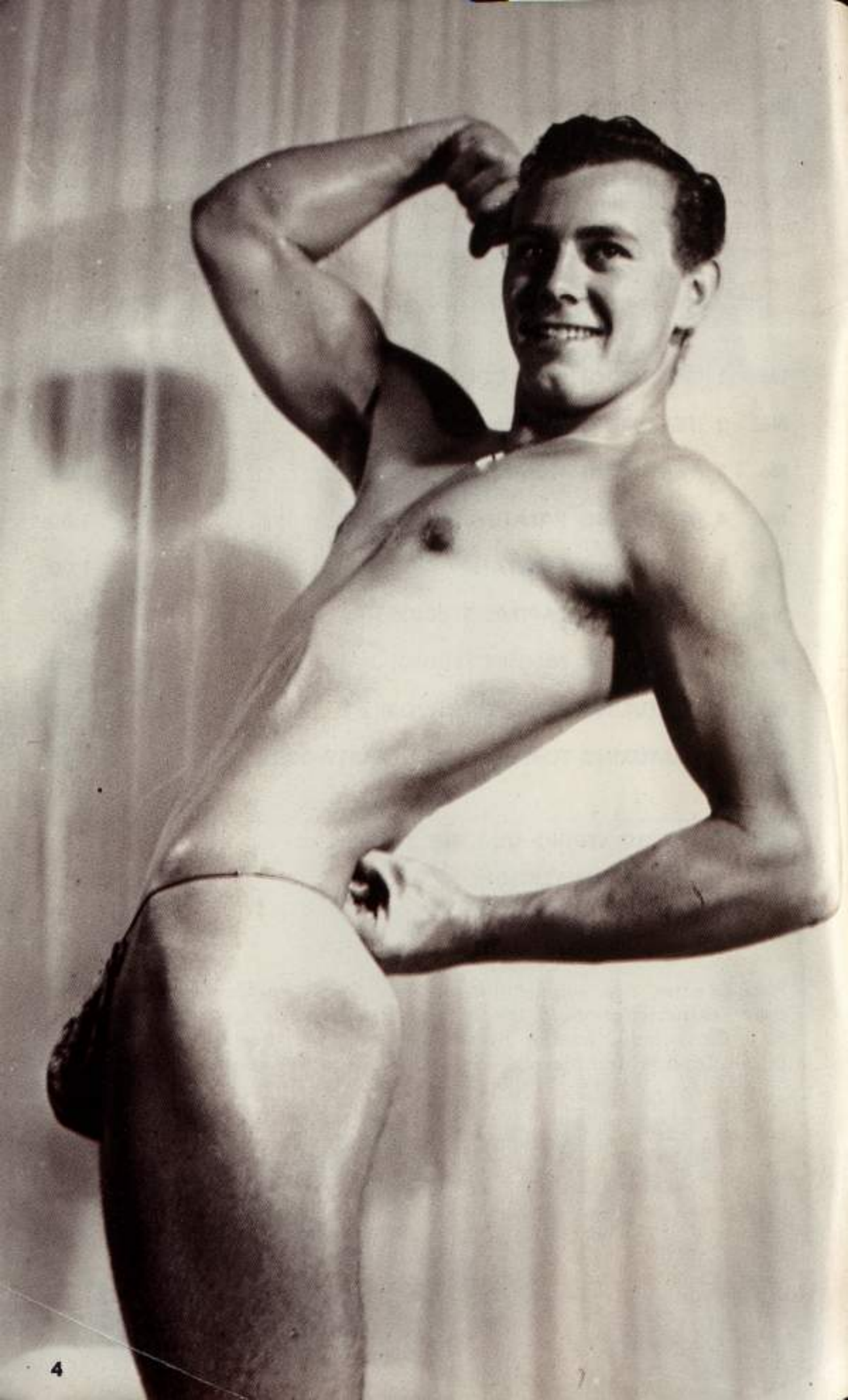

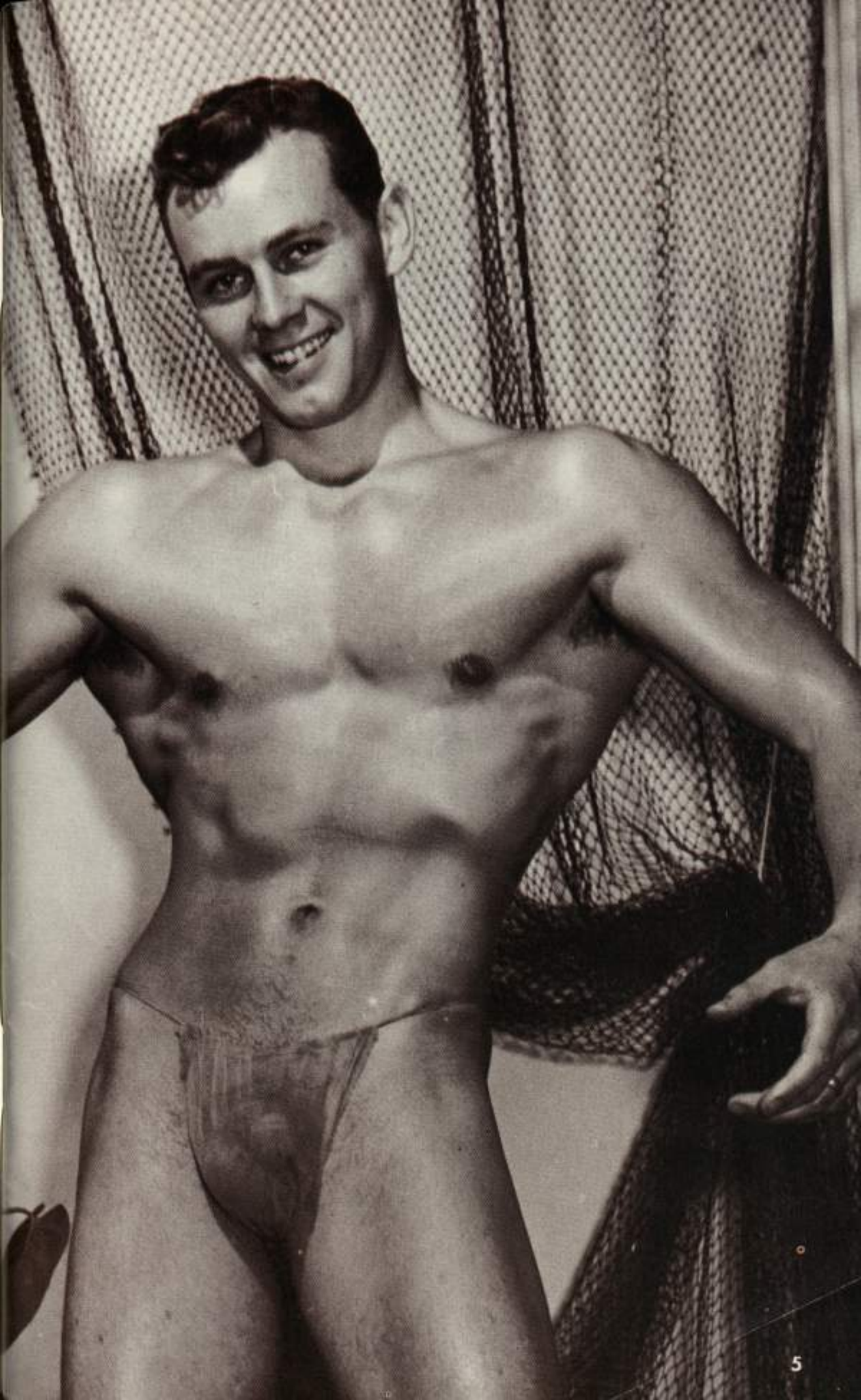

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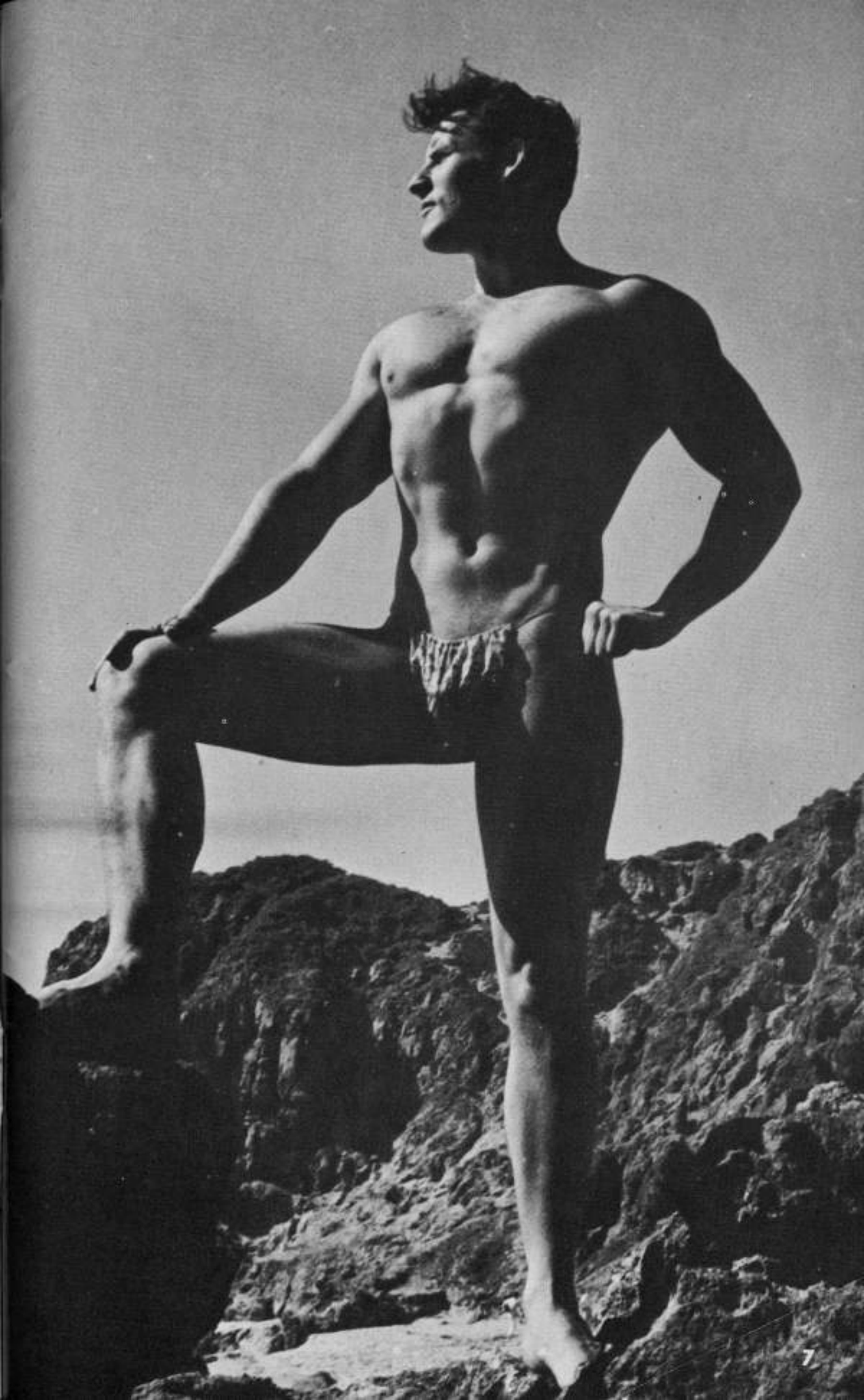

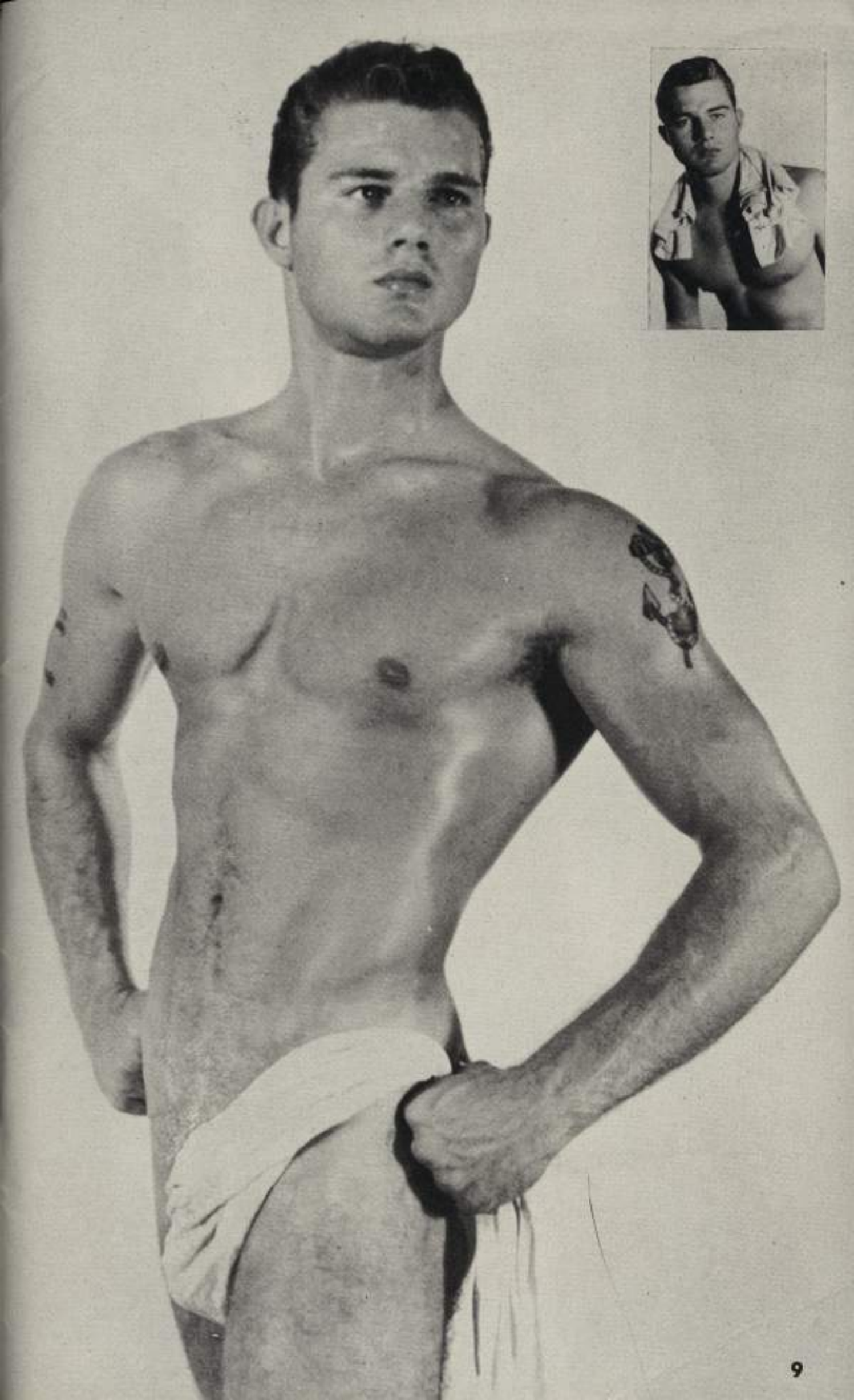

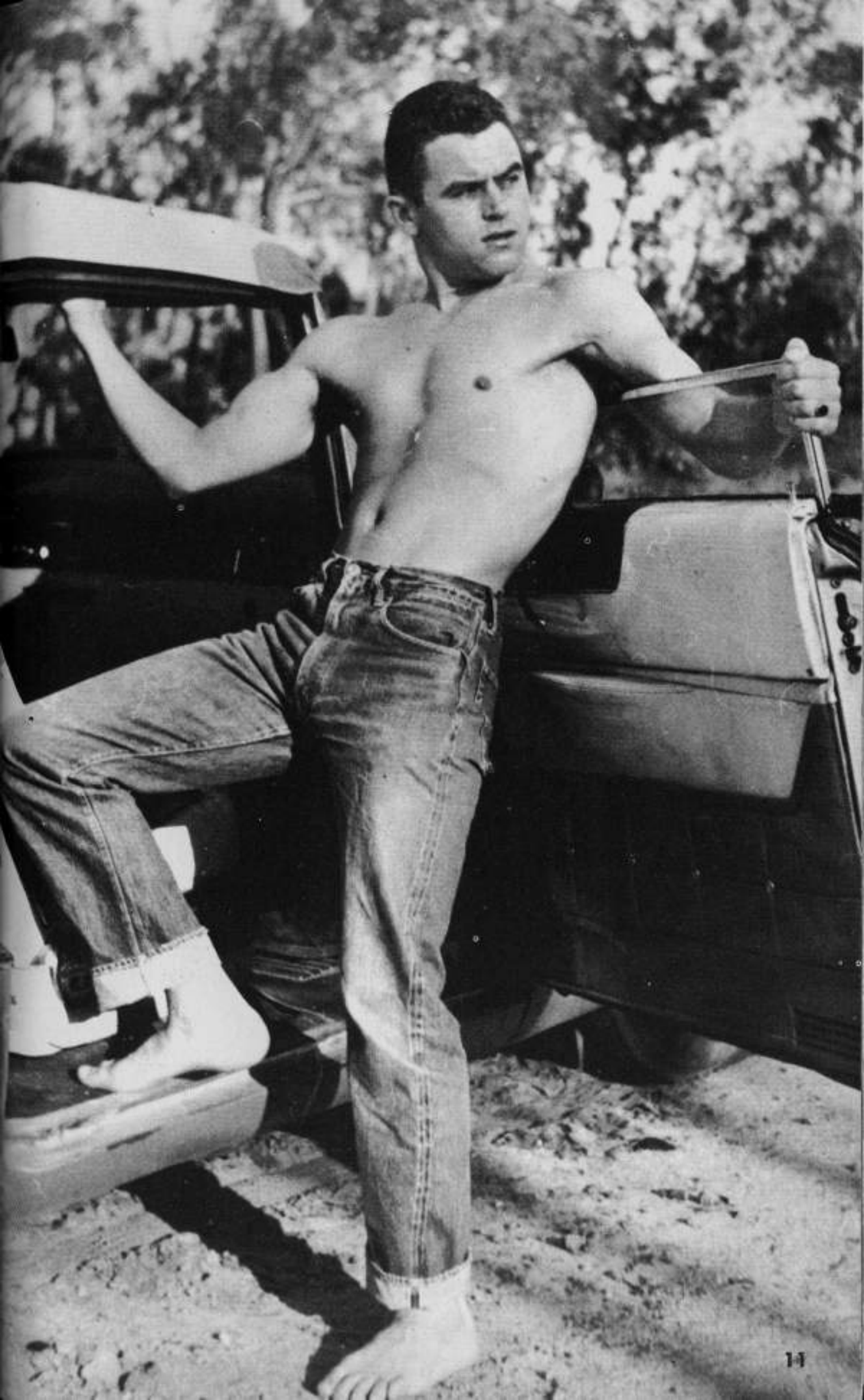

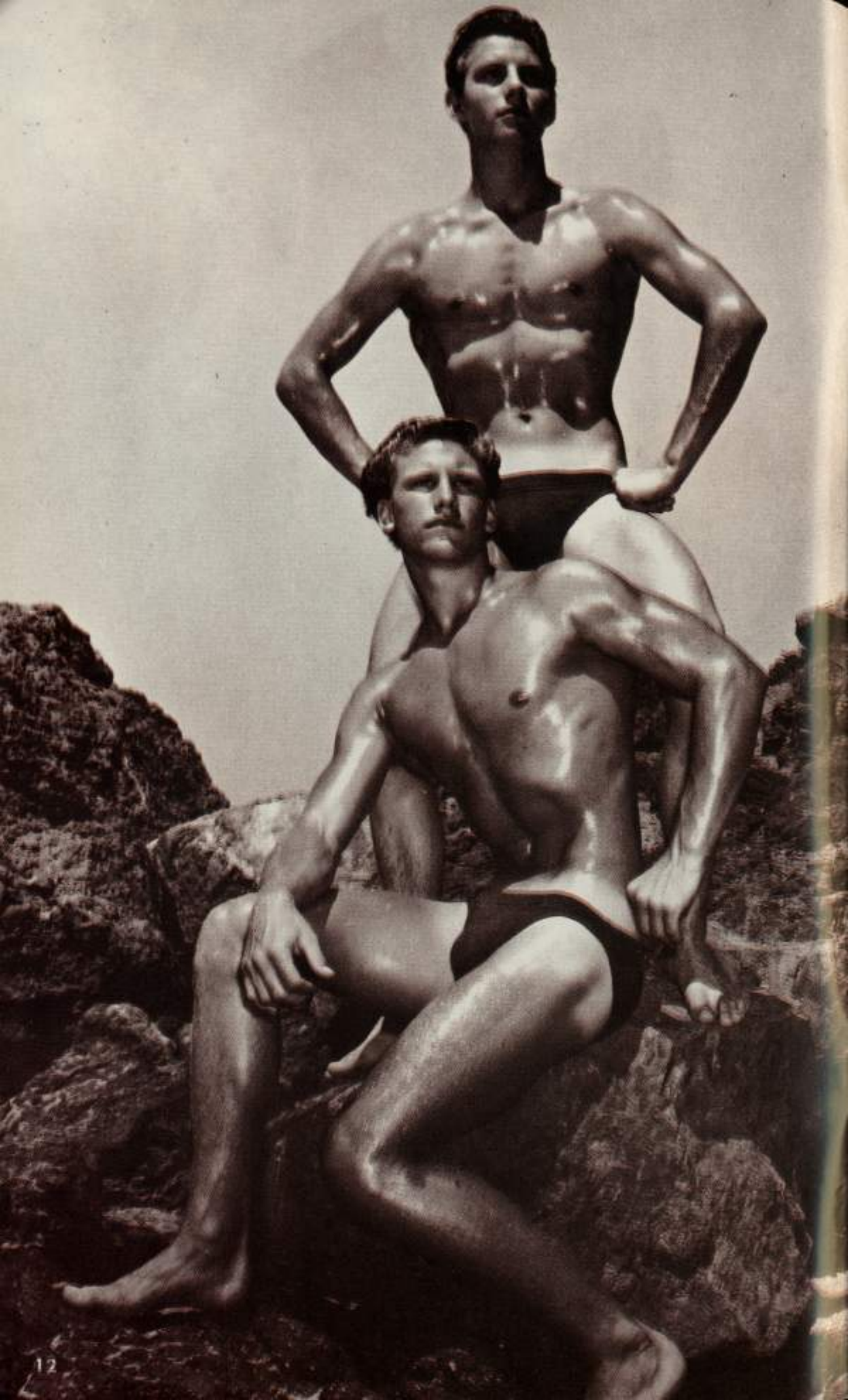

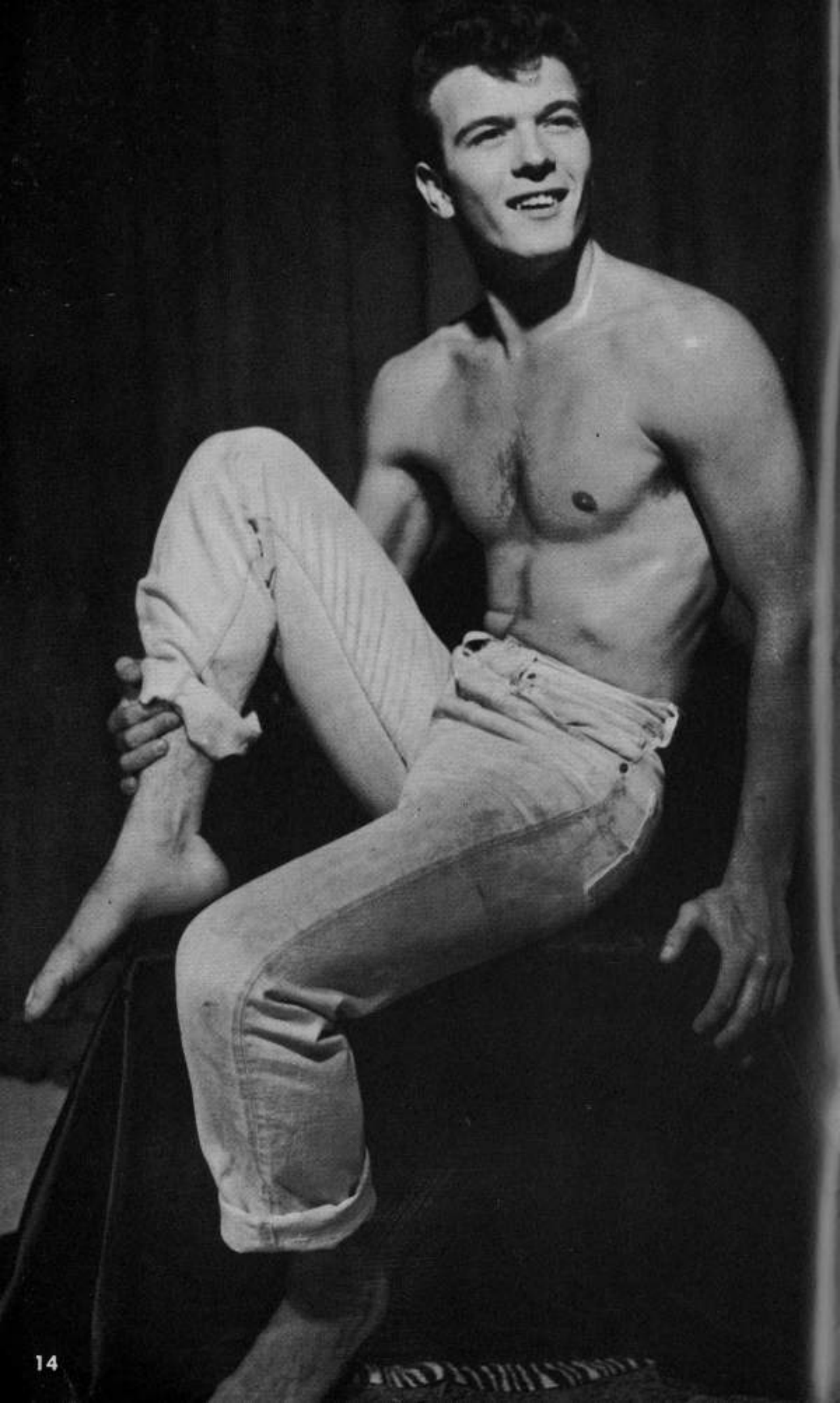

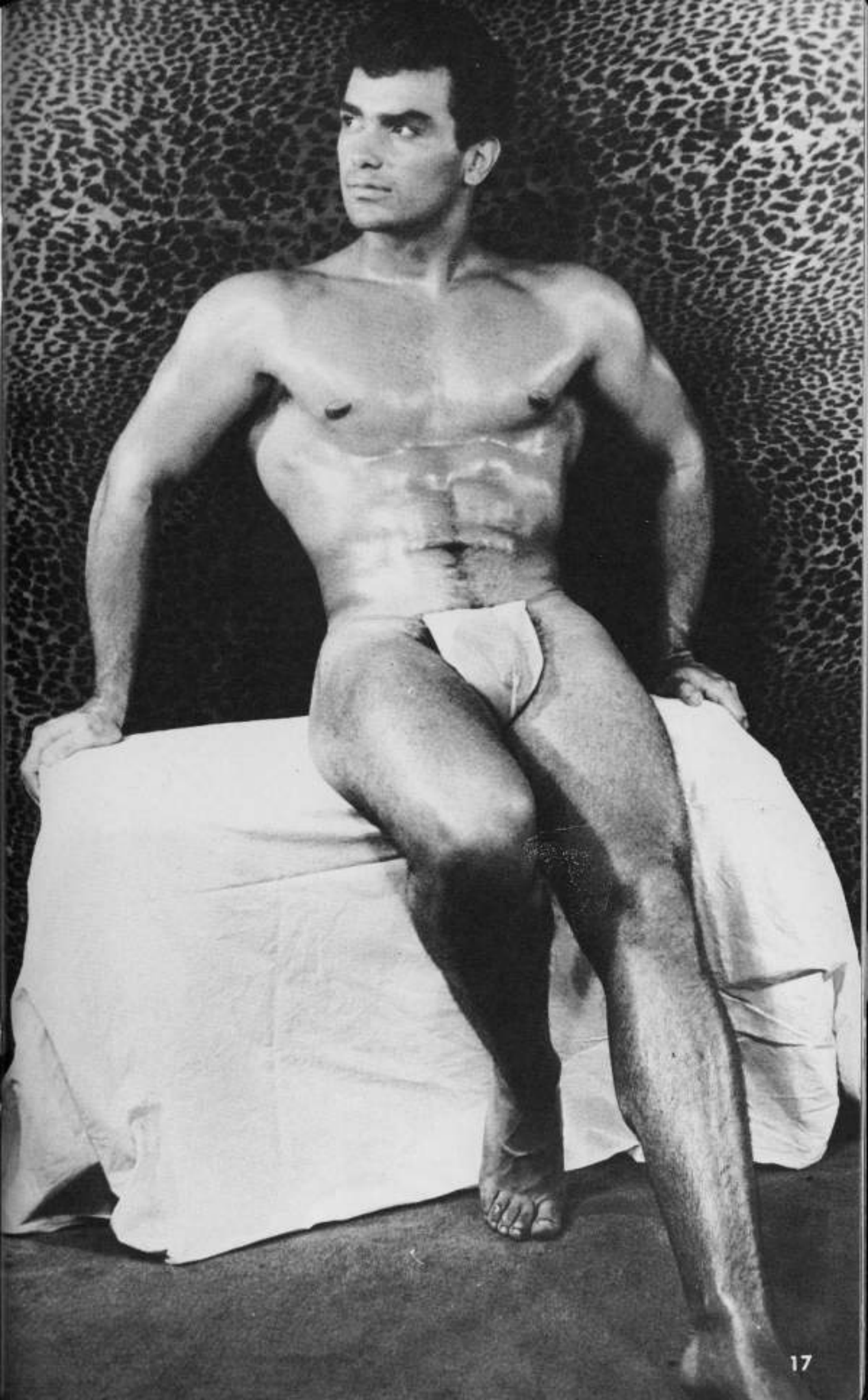

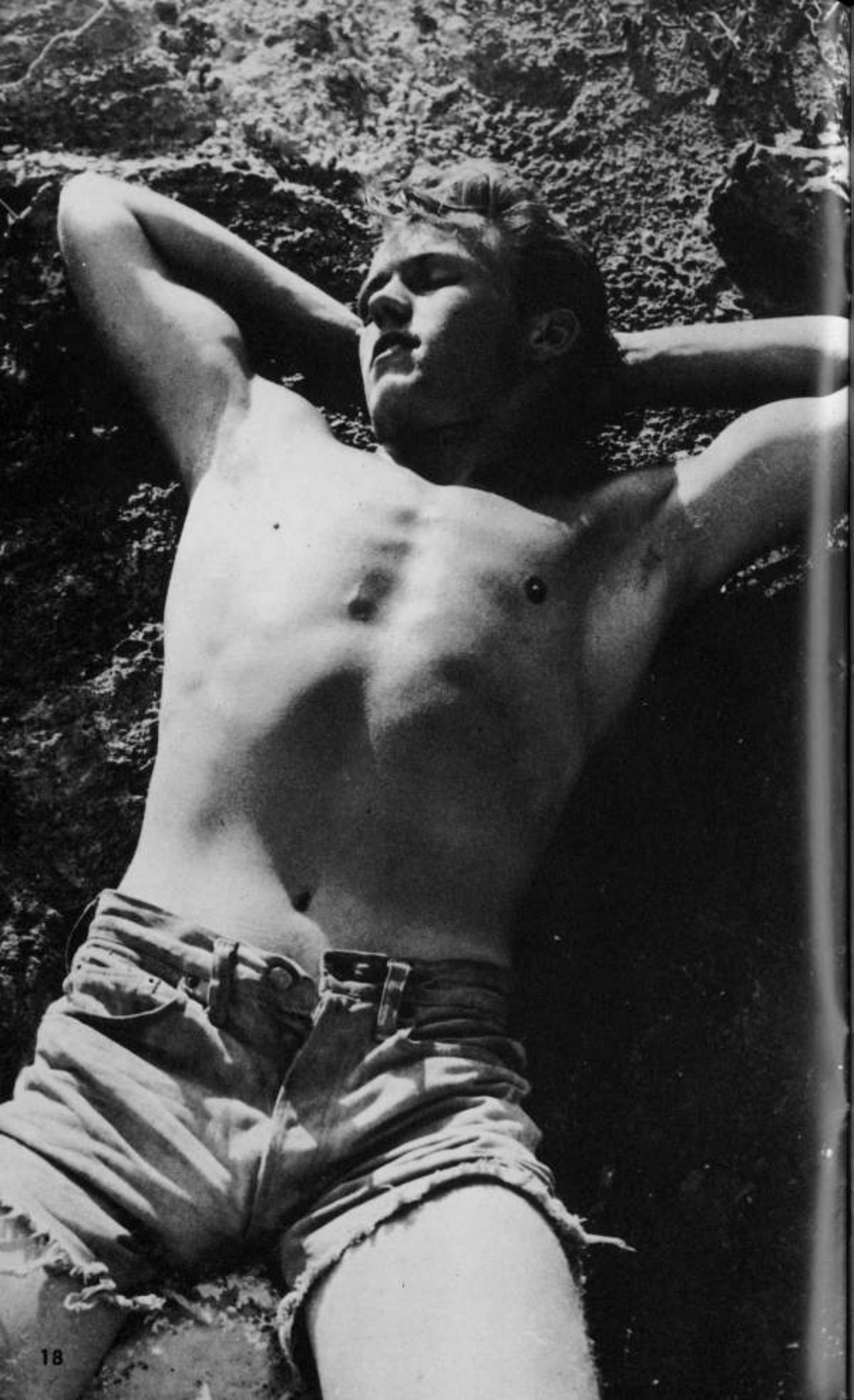

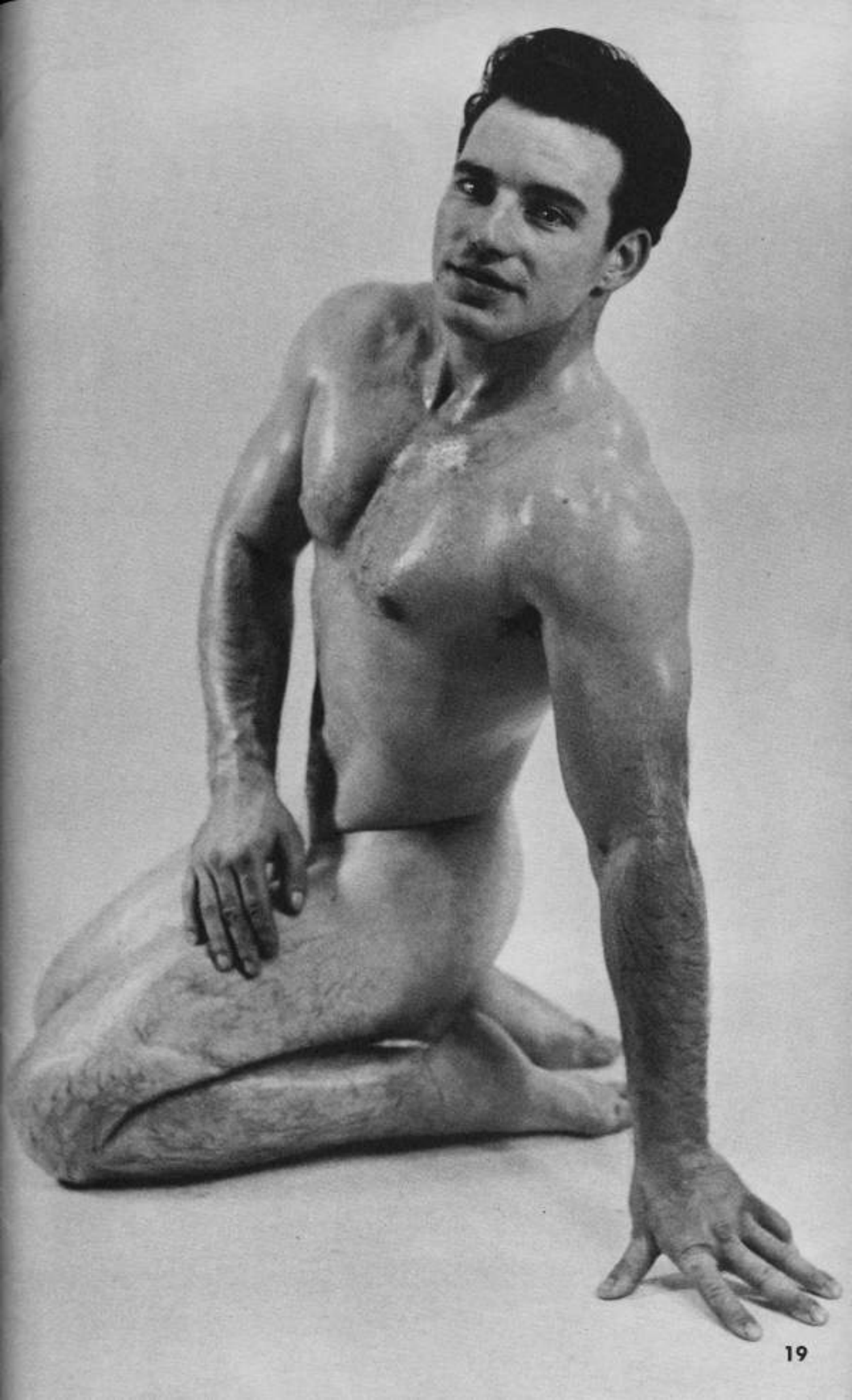

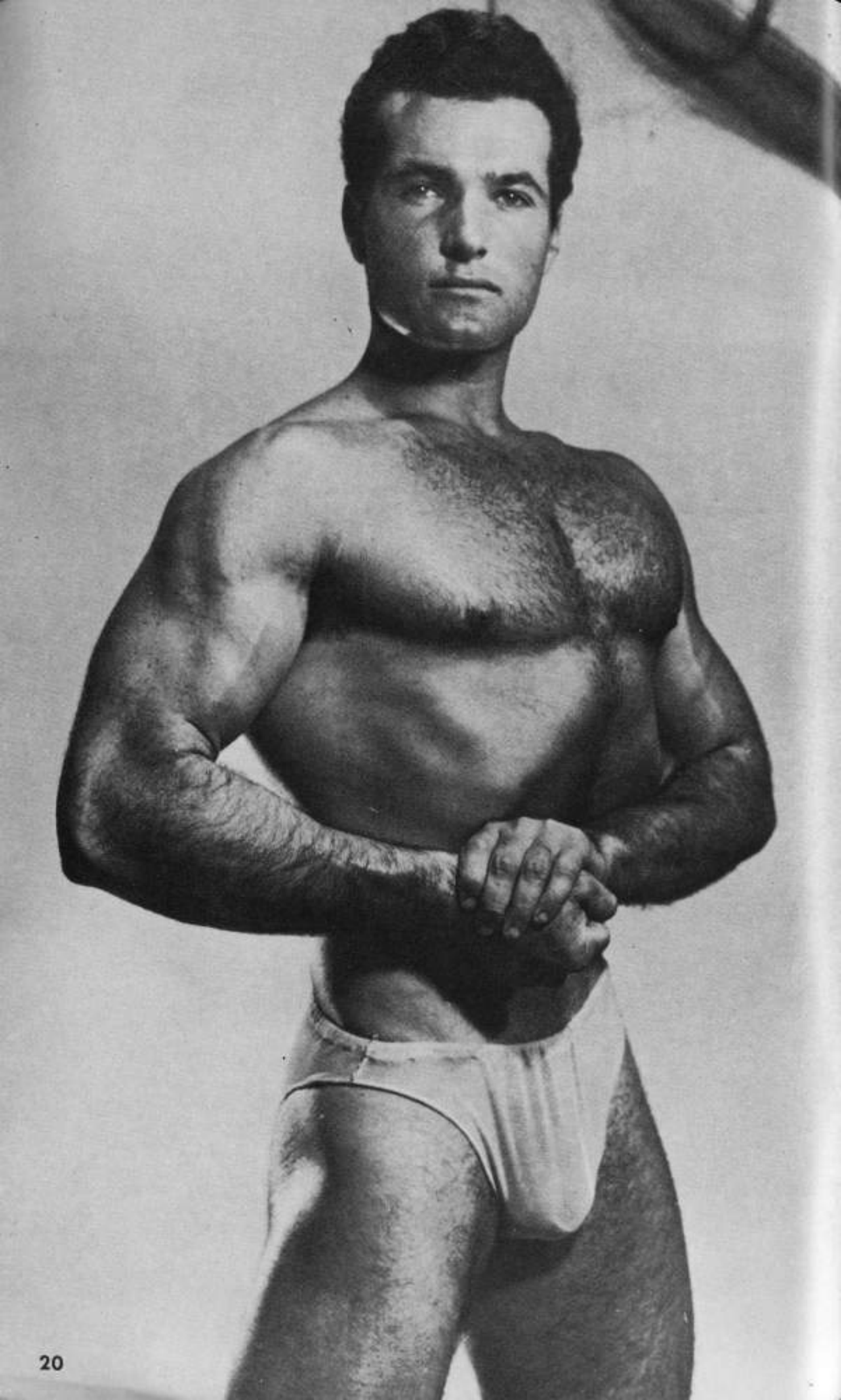

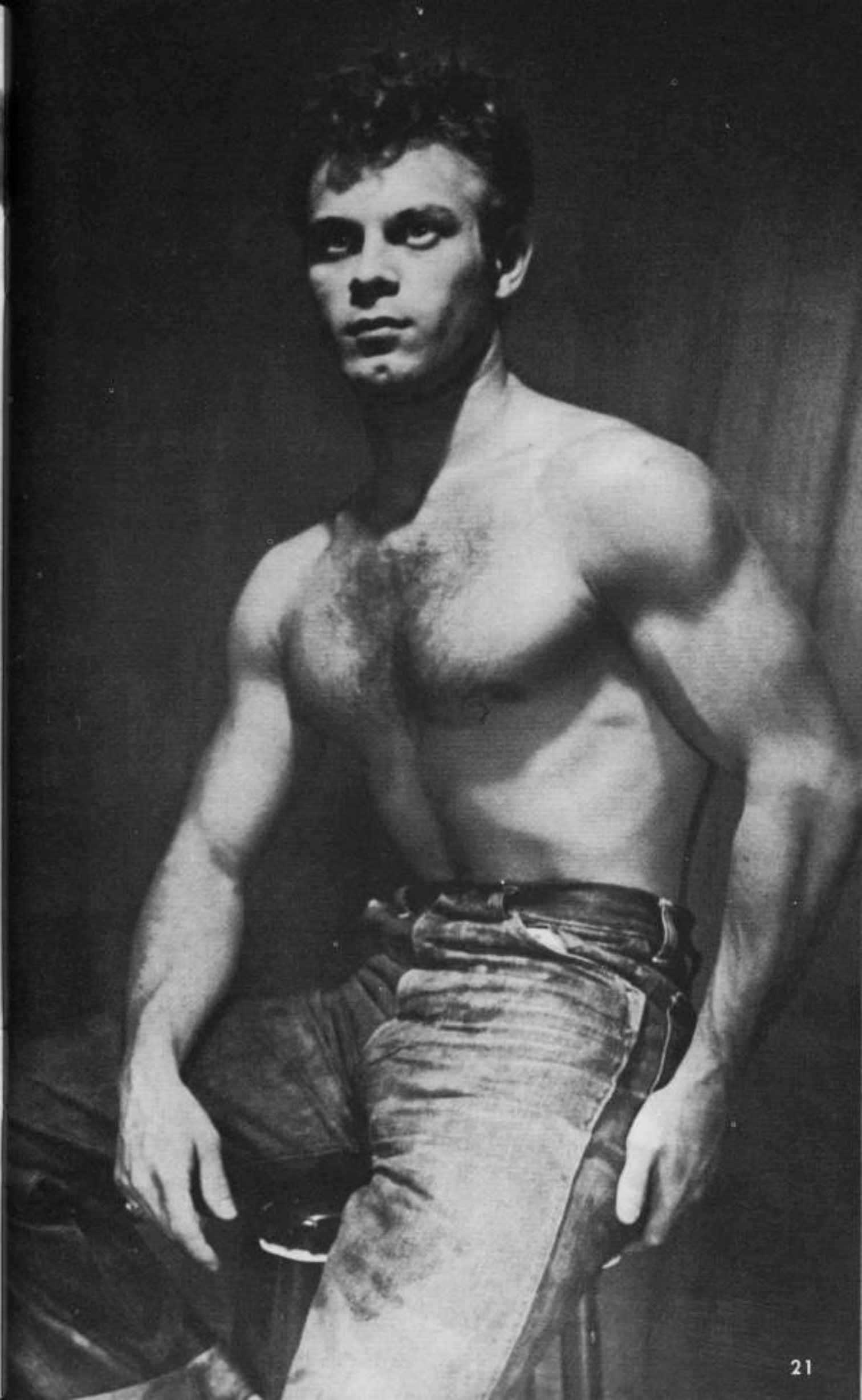

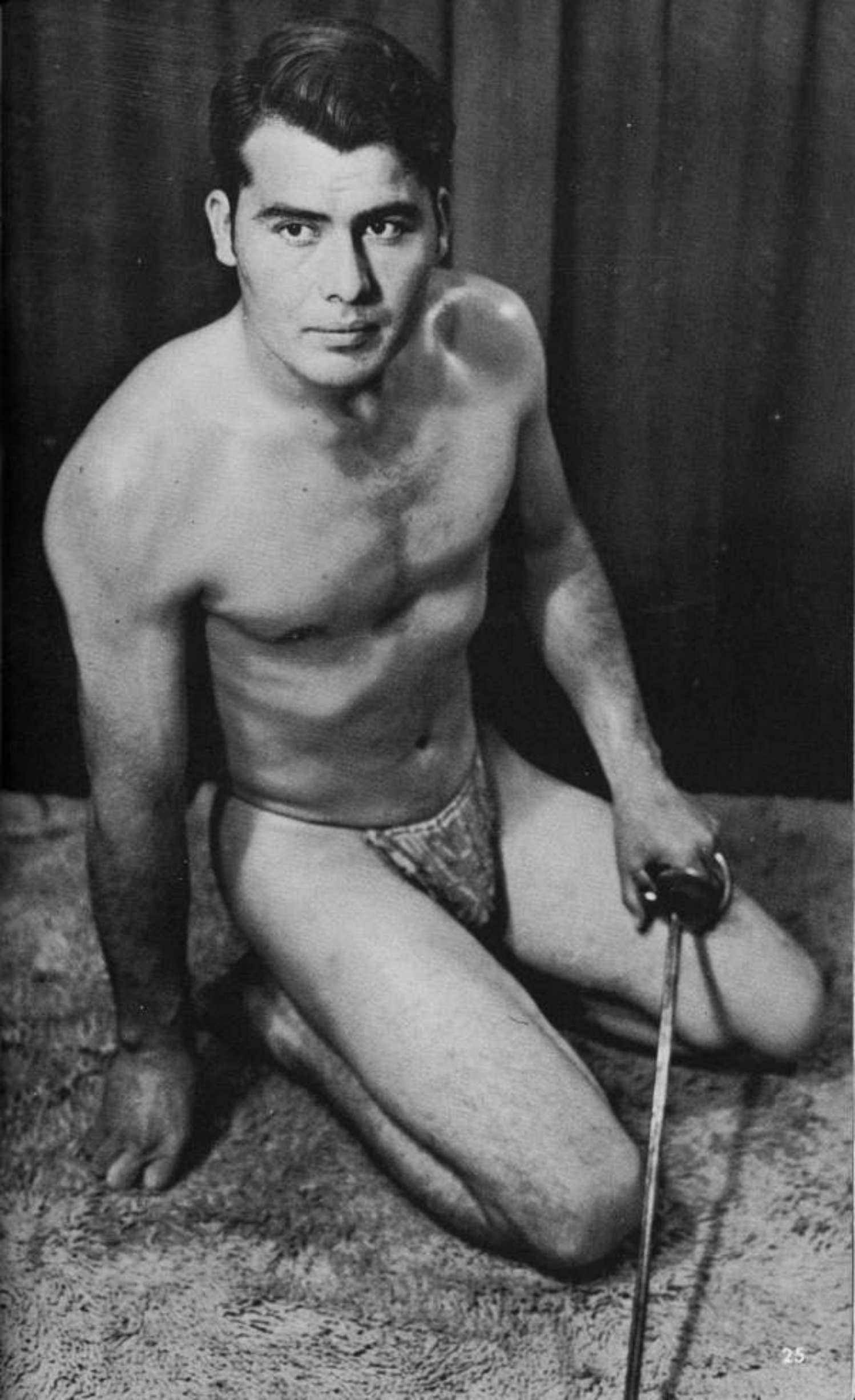

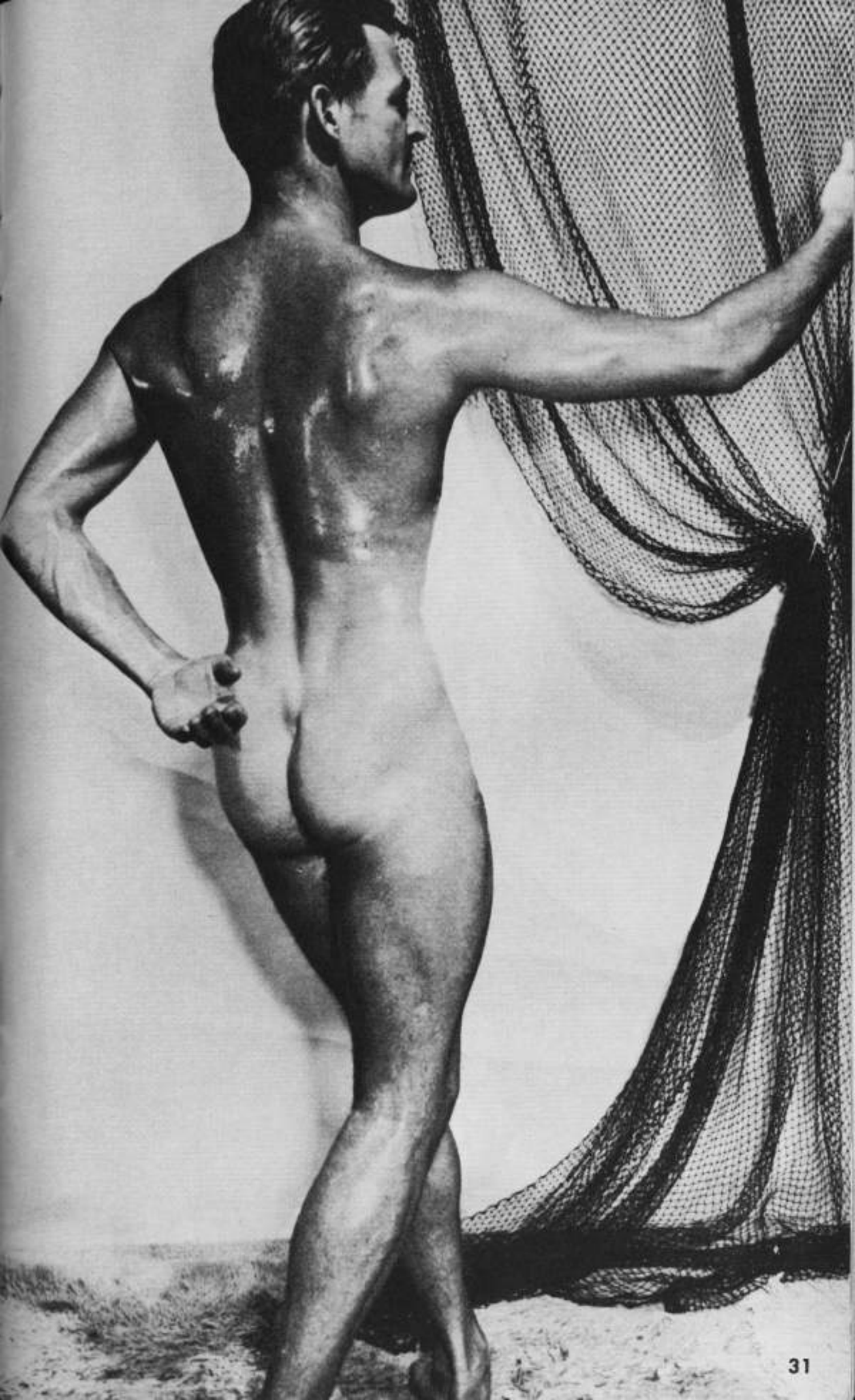

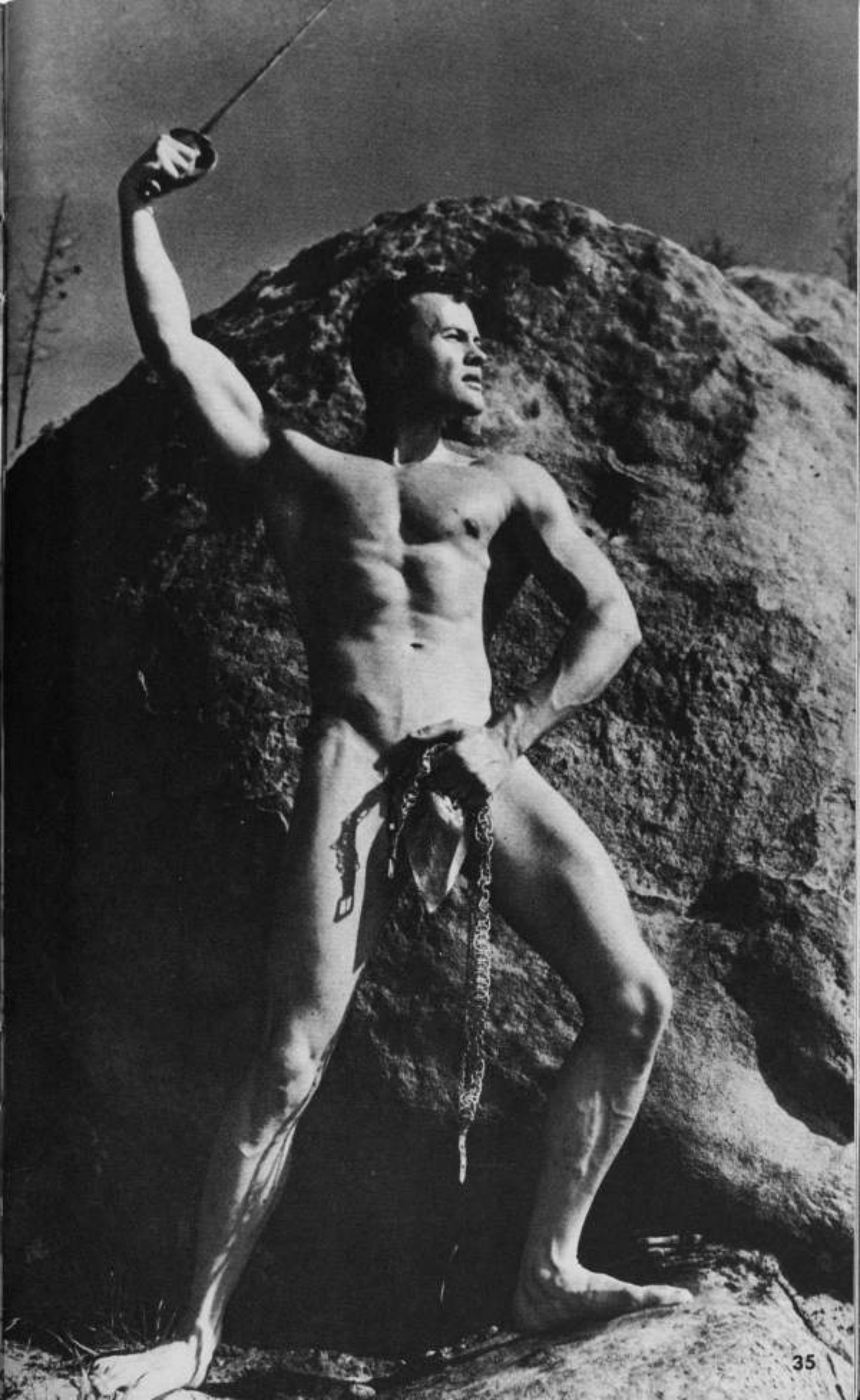

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A Significant Experience. Gwyn Griffin. (Available through Guild Book Service for $3.00)

This slight volume is a masterpiece of sadism, brutality, stupidity, perversion and human weakness. Just as the book opens, Major Seligman asks, " . . . Are you all sadists or something?" Before the book closes, he would have been quite happy to have settled for simple sadism.

Cadet Van der Haar has been sent to the Training School to be made into an officer—this is most unfortunate as Van der Haar was only seventeen, more French than British, sensitive and completely disinterested in the traditions and mores of the British Army. It is during World War II, and the Training School must process Van der Haar for rapid absorption into Intelligence, but before this assignment to Intelligence can be made, Van der Haar must survive four months as a cadet.

Captain Lutwyche had a fixation on Van der Haar " . . . since Van der Haar was a good-looking boy and Lutwyche liked good-looking boys he thought about him a lot . . . "Captain Lutwyche's sickness can be gauged by his statement that, with respect to Van der Haar, " . . . I'm his sole commander, his owner."

This desire to own, dominate, humiliate and possess Van der Haar became a madness with Captain Lutwyche, a madness that alternately exhilarated and frightened him. One night in the desert, coming upon Van der Haar on watch, Lutwyche had become so exhilarated that he forgot himself " . . . And the hand had moved further up his thigh, pushing gently under his shorts." The madness turned to fear and this set into motion the series of violent and tragic events recounted here.

The coldest and cruelest character in the book is Major Exelfield, a product of Sandhurst, wealthy, and possessed by a streak of genuine evil. At one crucial point Major Seligman realized about him " . . . His conduct in the affair of Van der Haar had been actuated by an ugly cold-blooded cruelty, not by half-remorseful revenge for a wretched

childhood and youth, as was the case with Hood; nor by guilty, feline pederasty, as with Lutwyche; nor the insane reasoning of the Colonel Commandant . . . Van der Haar had merely been the best available victim. Later, there would be others . . . "

It was Major Exelfield, replete with riding boots and crop, who pointed out to Captain Lutwyche how and under what circumstances Van der Haar could be punished in a manner such that Major Seligman realized " . . . that what was to take place this evening was not merely a brutal piece of inhumanity, still less corrective punishment; it was a moral, and as close as possible to being a physical, rape."

Major Seligman had known for a long time of Captain Lutwyche's homosexuality and when confronted with the horror it was bringing about, was too weak to do anything about it. Lieutenant Hood was Lutwyche's accomplice simply because he had been beaten so much in his childhood and spiritually so brutalized that his catharsis lay solely in knowing that others could be made to suffer as he had suffered. The Colonel Commandant, as the typical British Army Officer, is beyond description.

Cadet Van der Haar was simply a child, beautiful and lost, who had no inkling of the complicated emotional torrent his mere appearance at the Training School had triggered. " . . . He was perpetually smiling . . . but it was a smile which covered fear and apprehension, a mask to disguise the dismay of someone lost, hopelessly, irretrievably lost in a foreign land whose ways he did not know, whose language he did not speak, and of whose intricate and savagely enforced laws he had not the slightest understanding."

The book is a classic in that the compulsiveness of Captain Lutwyche operates without deviation to produce an ante-climax so powerful as to hold the reader spellbound and horrified; while the real climax and inevitable tragedy is akin to the classical Greek version where the individual perishes solely because the course of events, by chance, collides with his own weakness as a man. Sergeants Cole and Calderon, who could have accepted Van der Haar's fate as the result of stupid Army Regulations but could not accept the situation once they knew Captain Lutwyche's motivations, become powerful avengers and the results are catastrophic.

Only indirectly does the author answer Major Seligman's musing and final question, but the answer is clearly here and even the Major must have known it as he, after the tragic events are no more, wonders" . . . Why couldn't Lutwyche have allowed his peculiar emotions a more normal outlet and lavished an affectionate favoritism upon the boy; in the circumstances, no one would have worried. Instead of which, through fear of discovery, vanity and caste prejudice, he had twisted these emotions into a sanctimonious, smiling sadism . . . "

The Birdcage. John Bowen (Available through Guild Book Service for $3.95)

Most GBS readers will already know that John Bowen is one of the more talented young writers of the English Scene. This book, published in the USA, is his best work to date and is unsurpassed as an example of excellent writing. Mr. Bowen knows how to write, knows human nature and has a firm grasp of many segments of our social scene.

Peter Ash and Norah Palmer are introduced to us while on their

annual vacation, this year taken in Venice. Peter is thirty-nine and Norah slightly younger. They have lived together without benefit of clergy but with considerable tax savings for nine years. Everyone agrees that they are clever, sophisticated, well matched, headed for bigger things and surely happy. Norah Palmer is quite happy, Peter Ash is miserable.

Why? Because Peter Ash was, prior to meeting Norah Palmer, a practicing and quite active homosexual. Mr. Bowen describes Norah thusly, " . . . Norah Palmer was one of those women who make it a minor vocation to 'cure' homosexuals, and, moving as she did among intellectuals and creative artists, found plenty of opportunities to exercise it."

After nine years Peter Ash had had enough. He has an adventure in Venice one night while Norah is out with some friends, and this is a foretaste of things to come. Once back in London, he proceeds to force a dissolution of their domestic arrangement, and although he has an affair with a young policewoman, he is soon immersed in the street-pounding cruising that takes up most of his nights.

Norah is eager to resume the relationship, and a friend intervenes and brings them together again. Why the reunion? Norah is a strong woman who dislikes not having someone to "cure" and anyway, living with Peter is better than living with her mother, the fate that she escapes only by resuming the relationship with Peter. Peter is weak, insecure, and does everything badly—even cruising.

The book deals with a situation so frequent as to be commonplace. We all know innumerable people who have married as an escape from active homosexuality. These situations range from the deadly to the tragic. Freud maintained that such a situation would fail eventually simply because repression will, ultimately, fail to stifle any such desires. Peter Ash is a good clinical example—it took nine years, but his deeper drives asserted themselves and he was cruising again, and enjoying it. The mechanism by which a stronger female involves him in a repetition of a course that has already failed is beyond the scope of this review.

The unasked question, but the question any intelligent reader will ponder after closing the book, is, "How long before Peter Ash erupts again?"

This is not an erotic book. It is unusually well written and holds your interest from the first page. Chapter 5, "The Night People," is as graphic and accurate account of life among the gay bars and hustlers in Soho as you will find—along with revealing the utter compulsiveness of Peter Ash's cravings and desires.

This excellent book is recommended for the GBS reader who likes excellent writing, social criticism, wry wit and subtle characterization. If you have wry wit yourself, give this as a present to any of the Norah Palmer-Peter Ash combinations you happen to know!

Paperbacks Available

McCAFFERY. Charles Gorham. (Available through Guild Book Service for 75 cents)

This story is melodrama from the first to last page. Vincent McCaffery is the product of an Irish Catholic background in Yorkville. His mother is dead and, of course, his father is a brutish alcoholic. His early heterosexual experiences are drab and distasteful, to put it mildly, and in the natural course of events he winds up in Central Park.

In a series of events which happens only in novels, McCaffery meets "Tiger Johnson," male pimp and owner of a stud house in the Village. The logic of Tiger," . . . You've got something to sell, sell it. That way it's a business transaction. Nobody gets hurt. Nobody gets arrested. And you get paid. But good.", leads to "blue" movies, catering to wealthy faggots with unusual interests, living in the palatial stud house in the Village and taking care of "office calls" and any other odd jobs which might arise.

Of course, there is the wealthy faggot who falls for our hero, and the two set up housekeeping in the grand manner. All would have been well except that McCaffery had fallen for a female whore, Doreen, and longed for her. The concluding chapters are gory with sex, lust, murder, sadism and over it all hangs the pall of Irish sentimentality. This is pure erotic nonsense, but the book is fascinating.

Special Notices

1. We regret to announce that we have suspended all orders from the 8-page catalog, "Special Sale! Hand-Picked book bargains." The materials sent our clients differed from those shown us and this, combined with the poor service, has been a most unfortunate situation. We will see that all orders to this date are filled and that refunds are made where necessary. We can state without equivocation that we will never use another outside supplier. Be patient and let us know what was missing from your order.

2. On March 27 a terminal mail car burned in Philadelphia. This means that mail from West, North and East of Philadelphia that was destined for Washingon was burned. If you are missing an order and it was on its way to us on March 27, please send photostat of check or money order stub with your inquiry and we can speed up our search and follow-up procedures here.

3. Many GBS clients have been incensed at advertising materials sent to them by another firm. There have been many inquiries as to whether or not this firm had used our mailing list. **THERE ARE NO CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE GUILD BOOK SERVICE MAILING LIST OR ANY OTHER MAILING LIST HELD BY ANY AFFILIATE HAS BEEN OR WILL EVER BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE.** When there is something we feel you might be interested in knowing about, we will enclose this material with our own.

4. GBS clients are warned that the **ATLAS OF MEN**—Sheldon, being widely advertised as lavishly illustrated with nudes, is a fraud. The photographs in this book have been butchered by having pubic areas daubed over.

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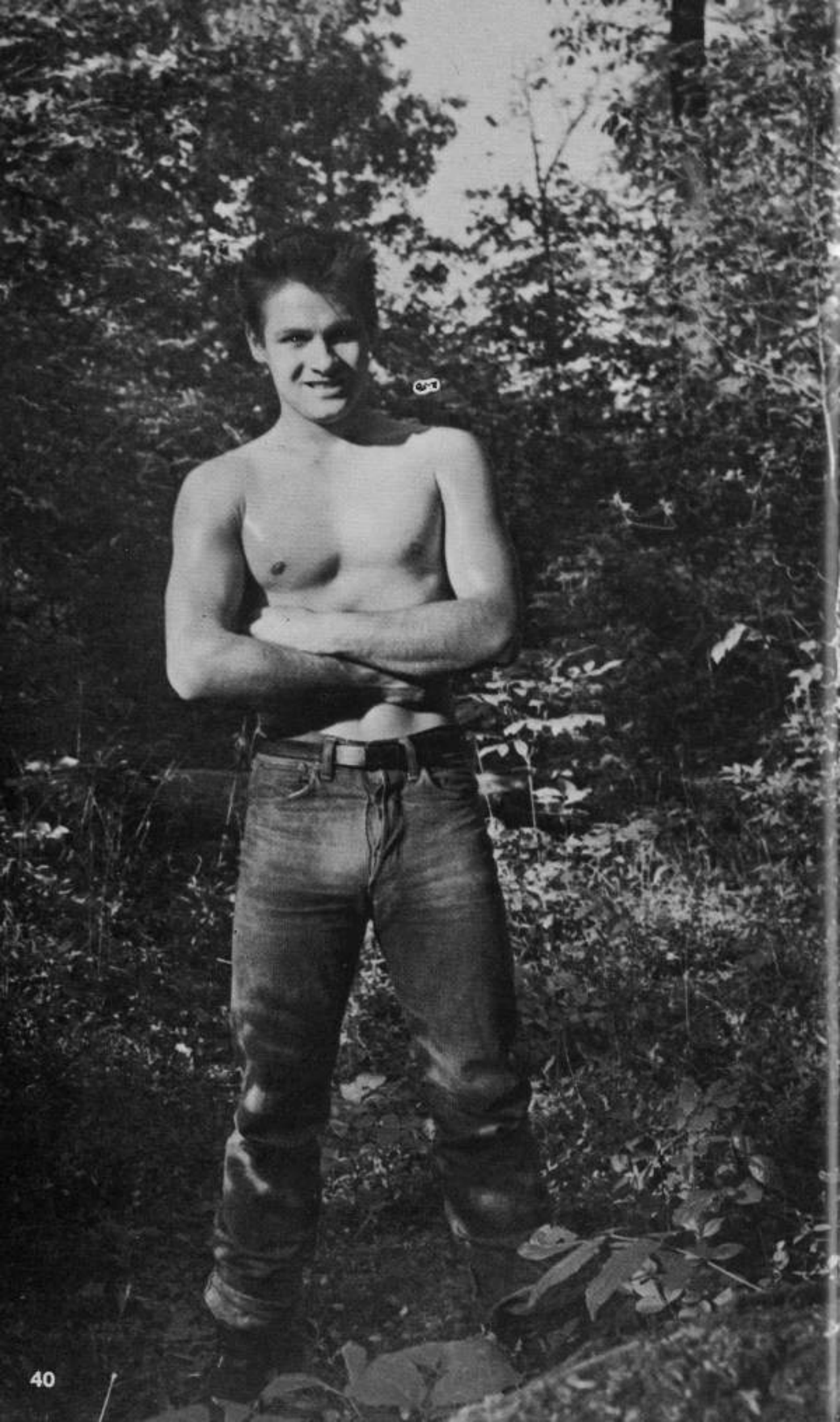

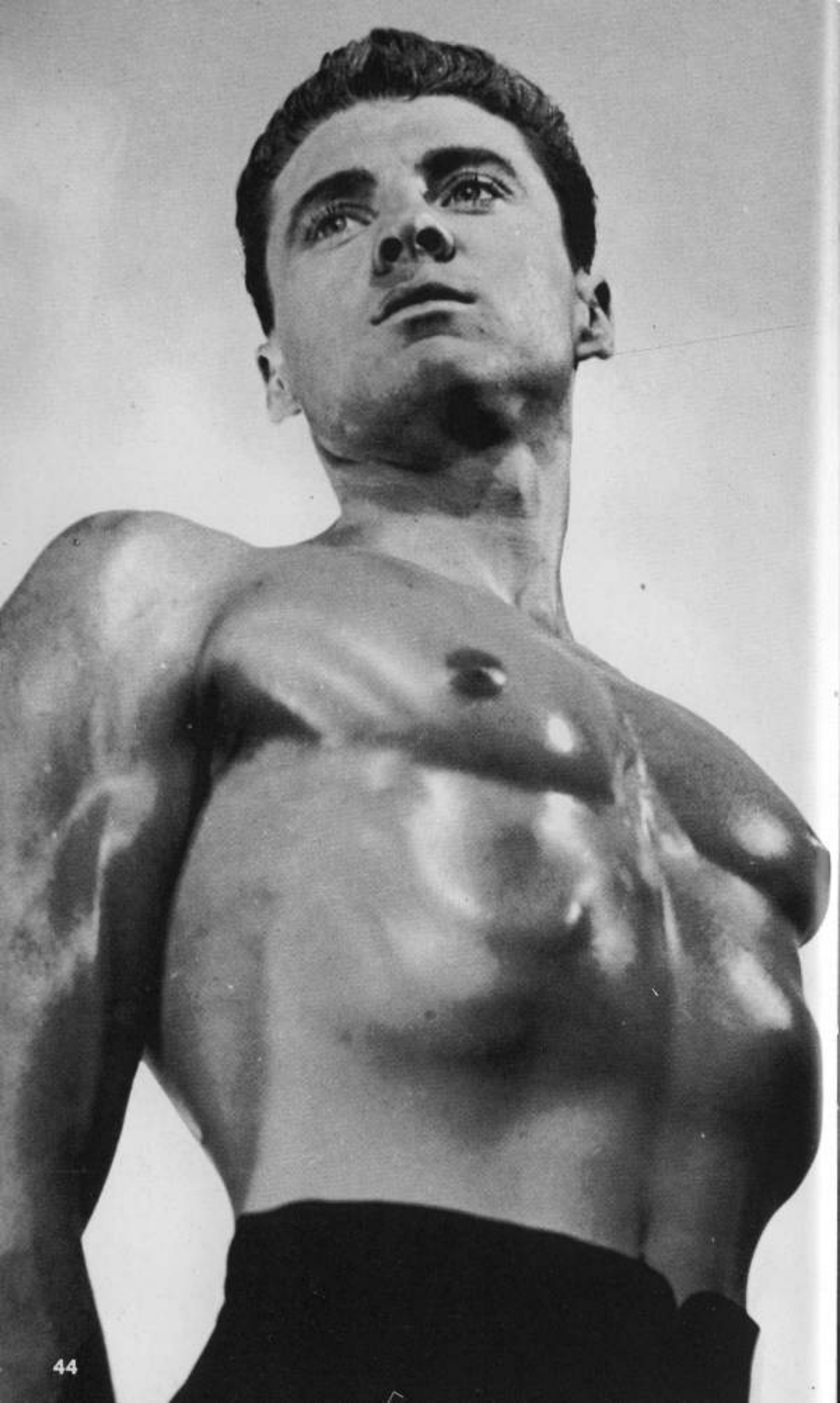

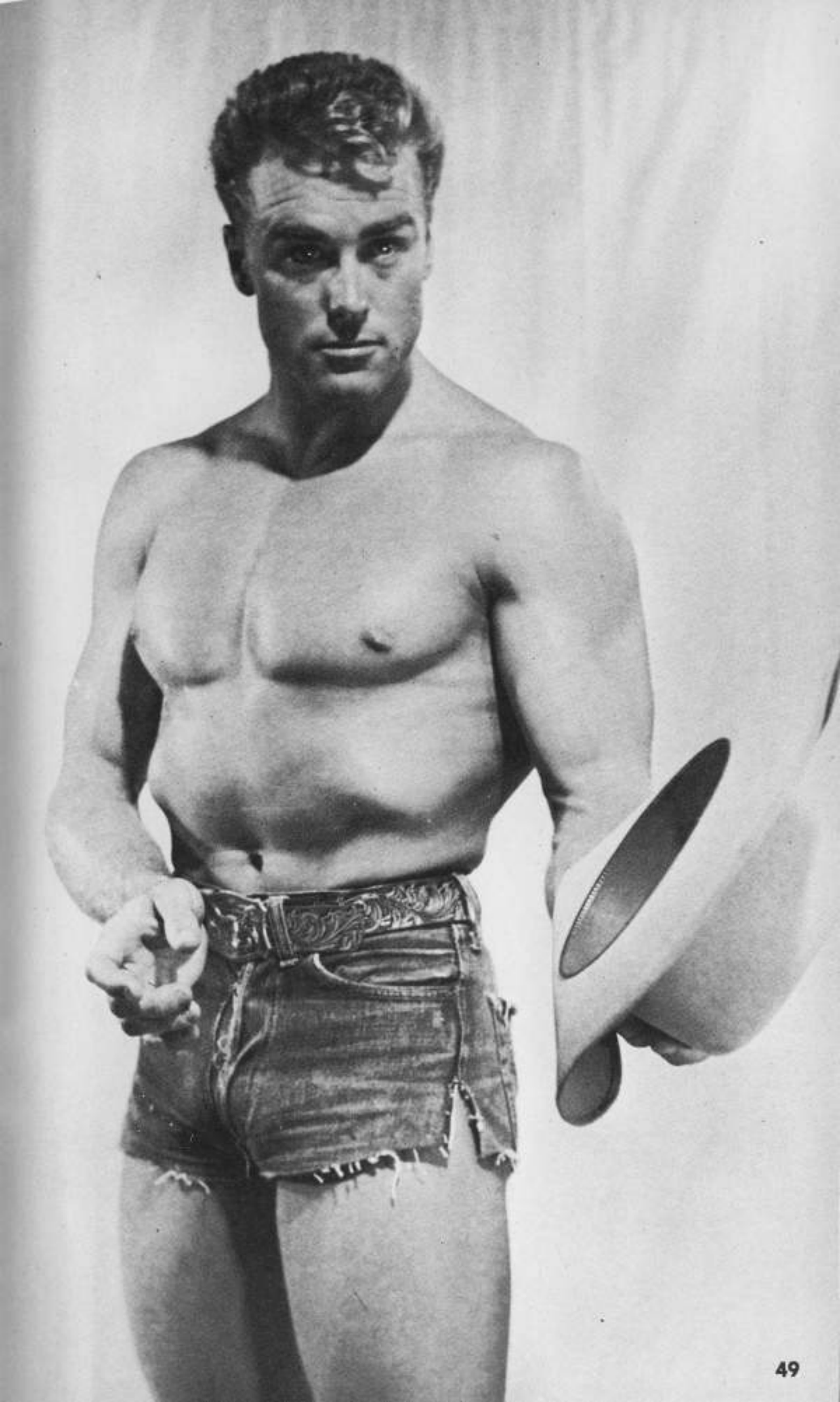

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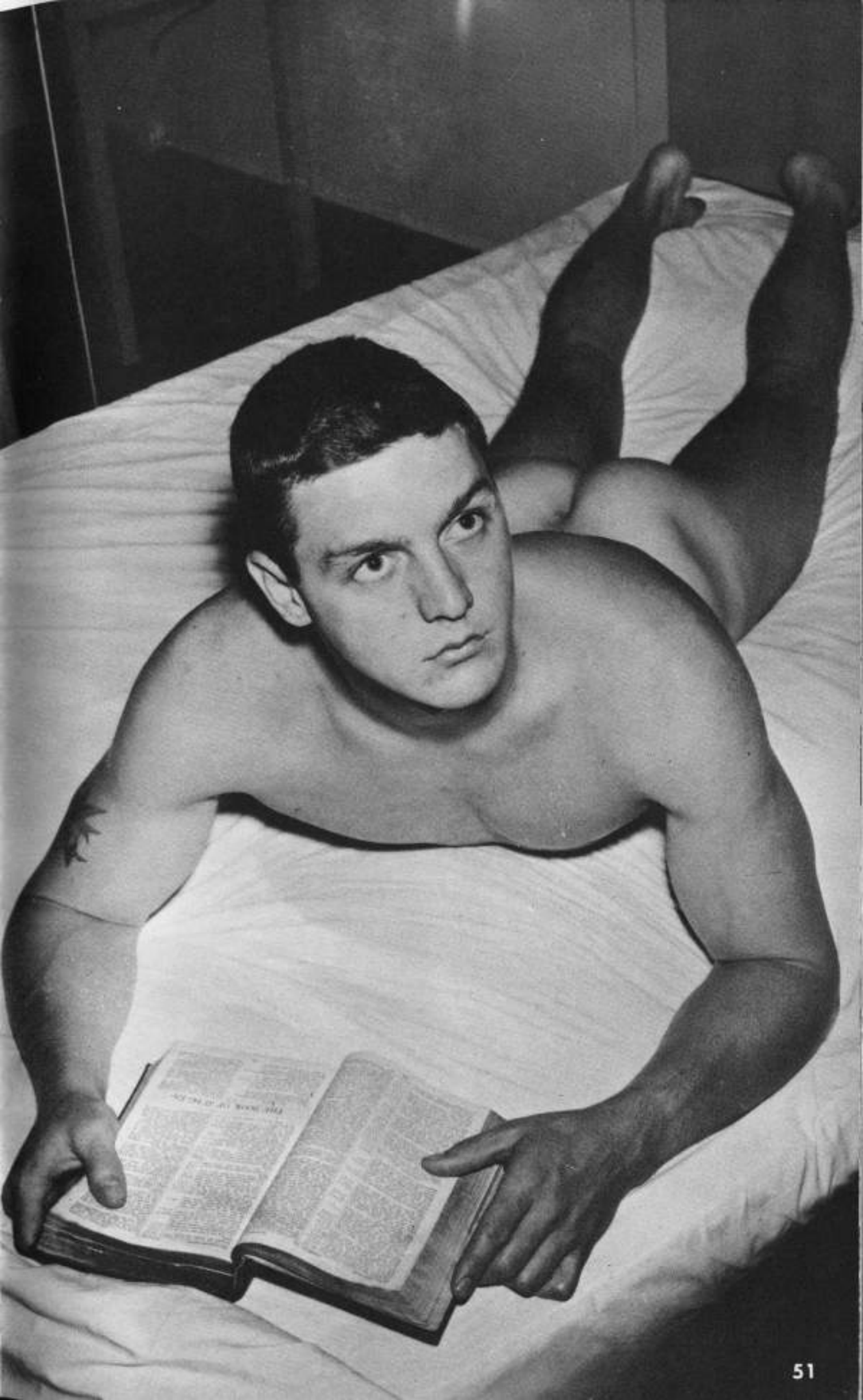

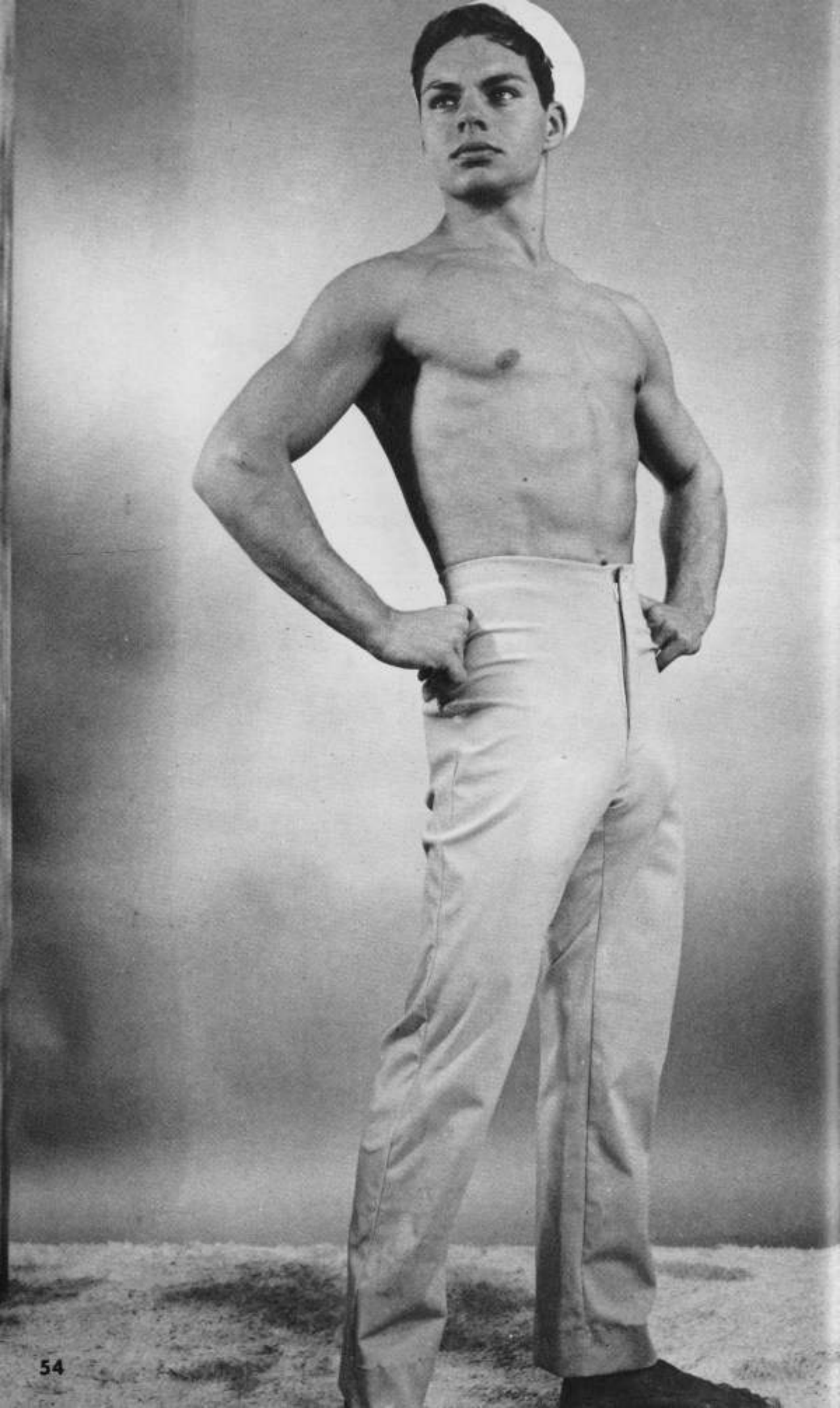

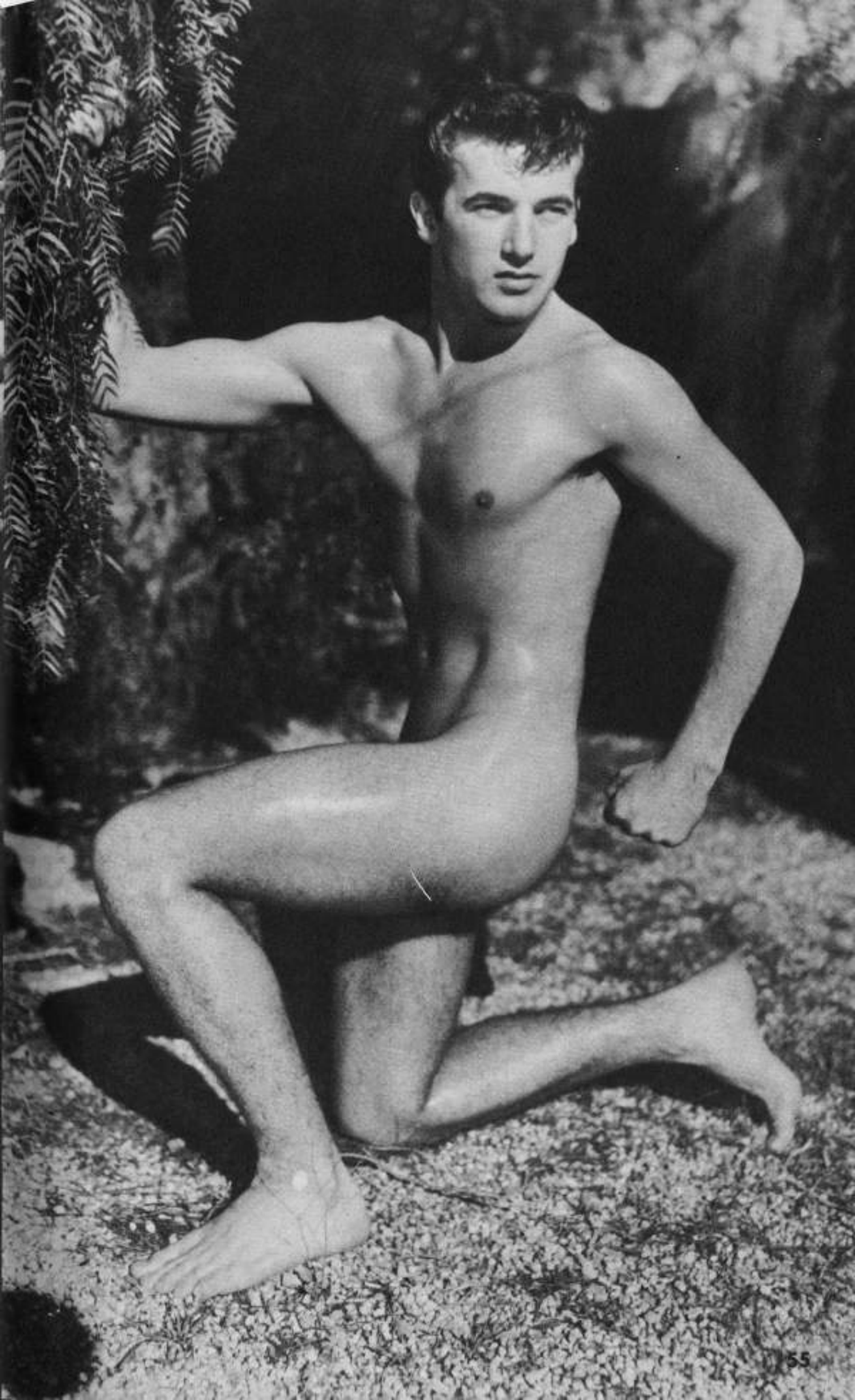

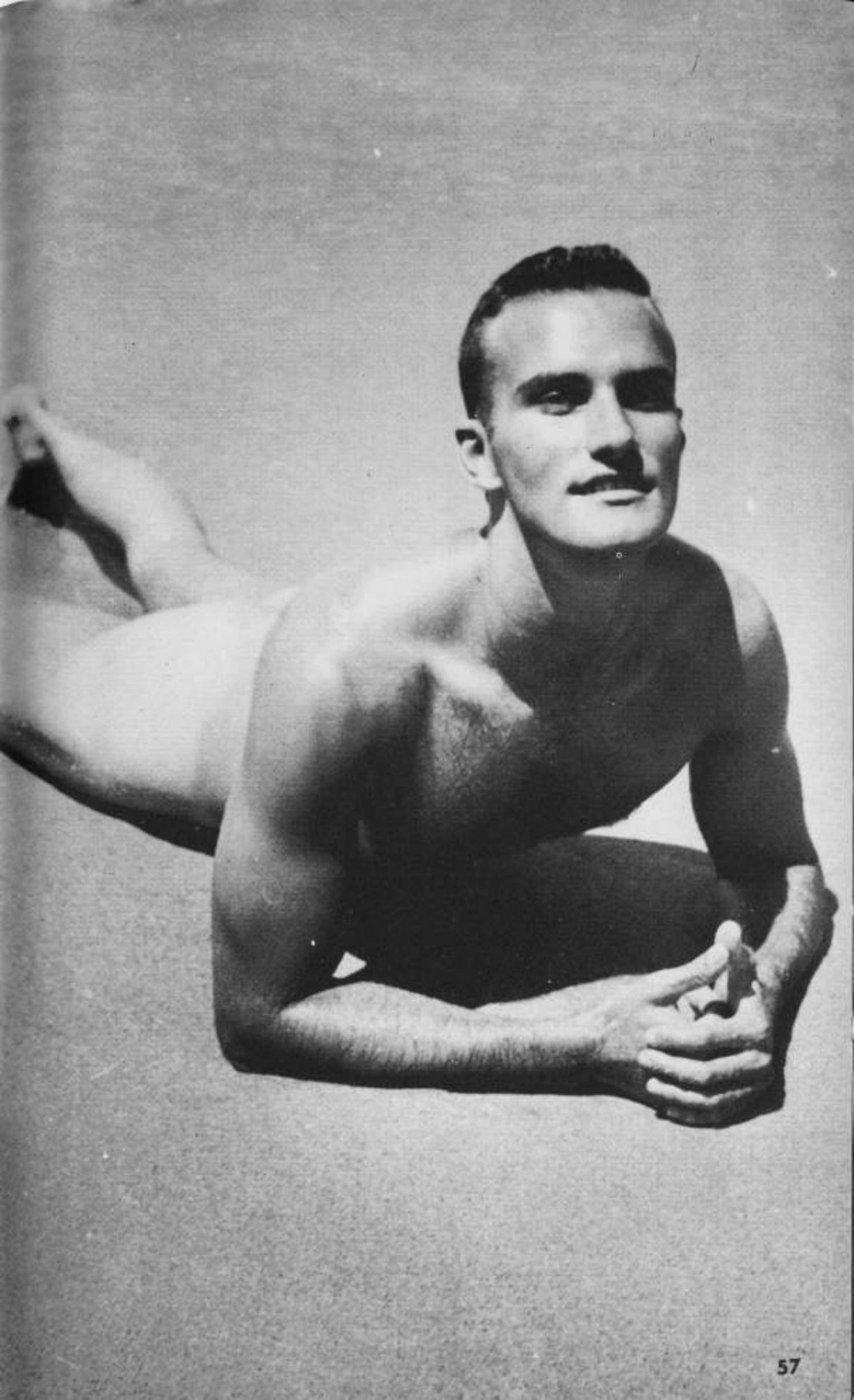

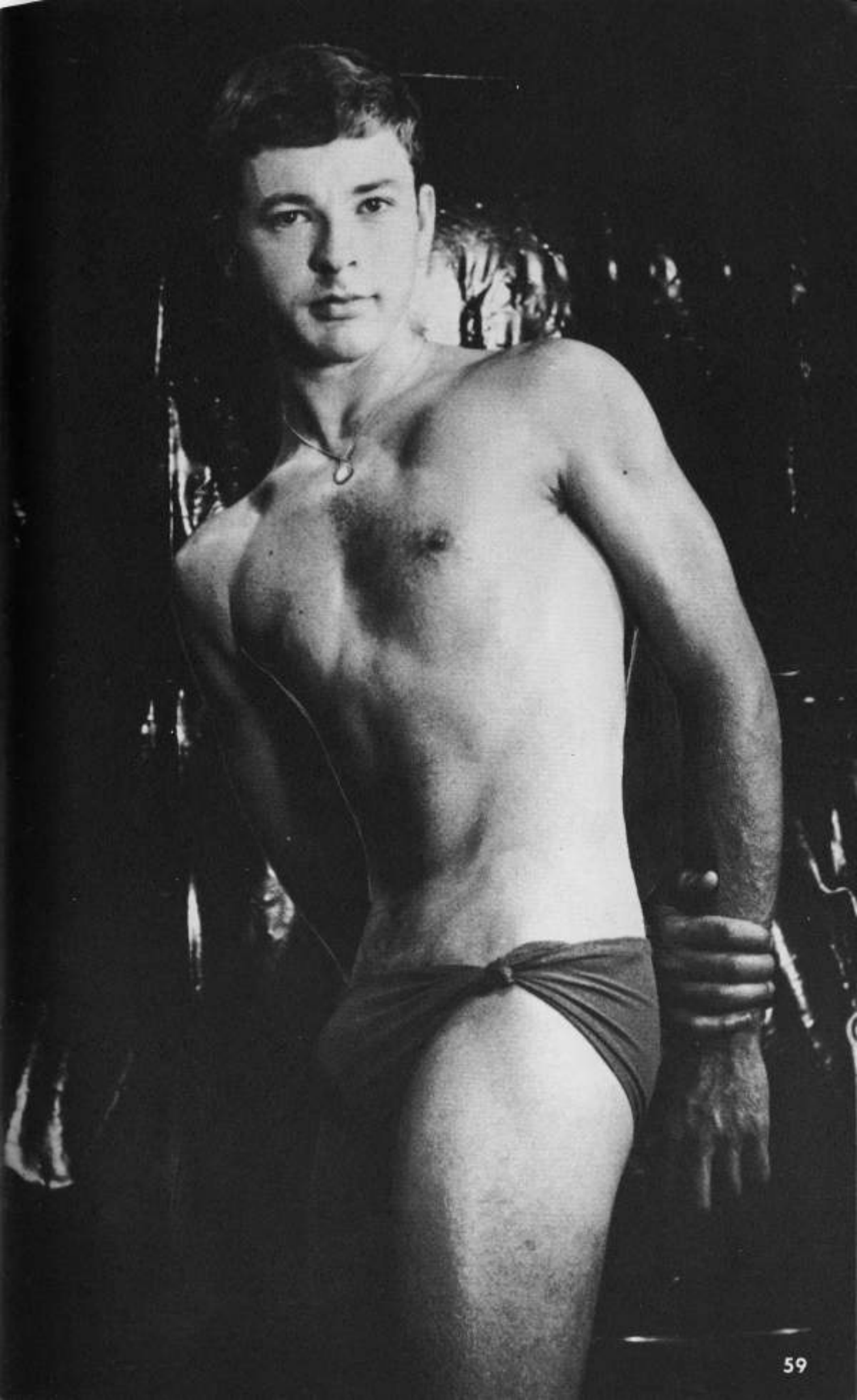

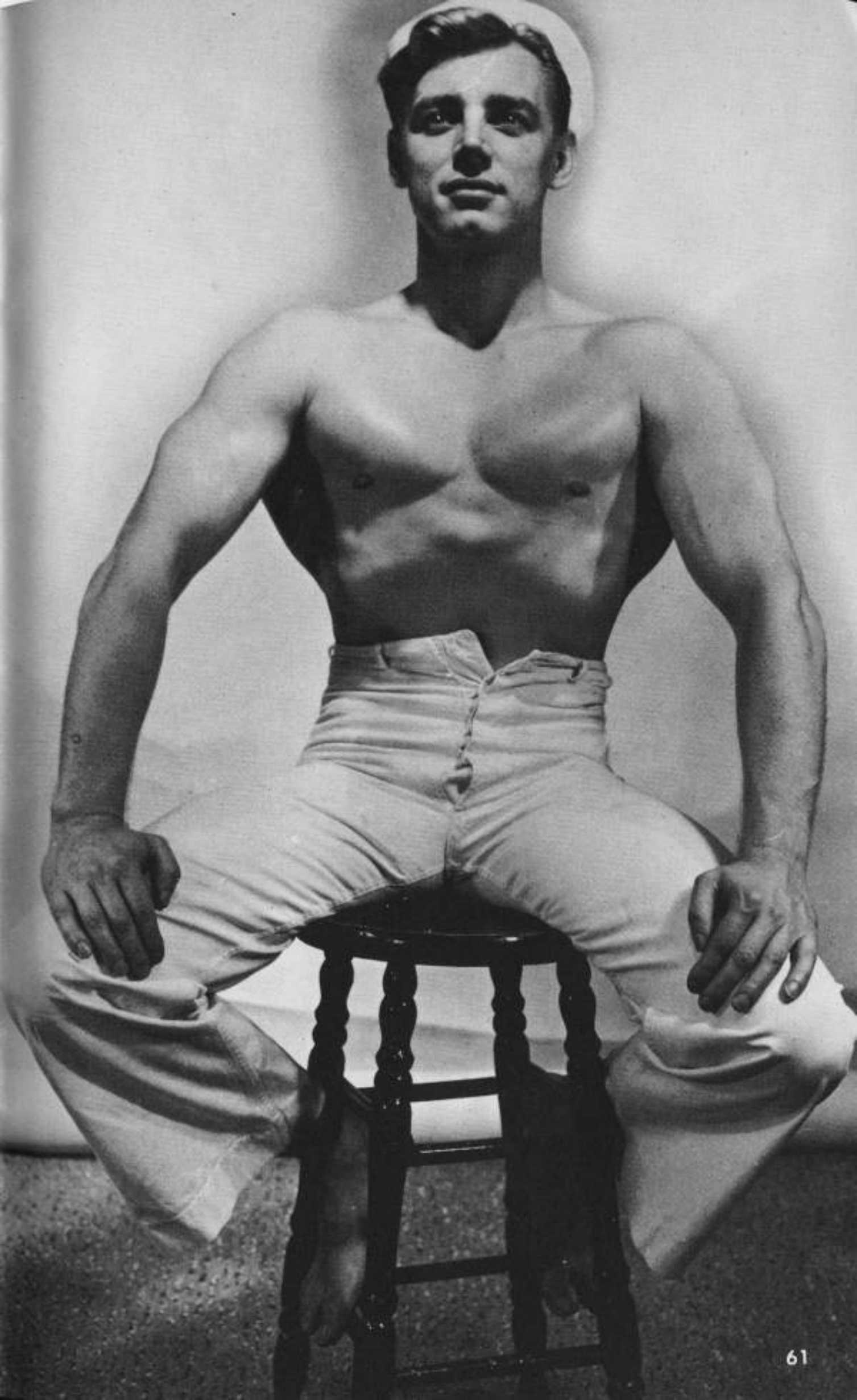

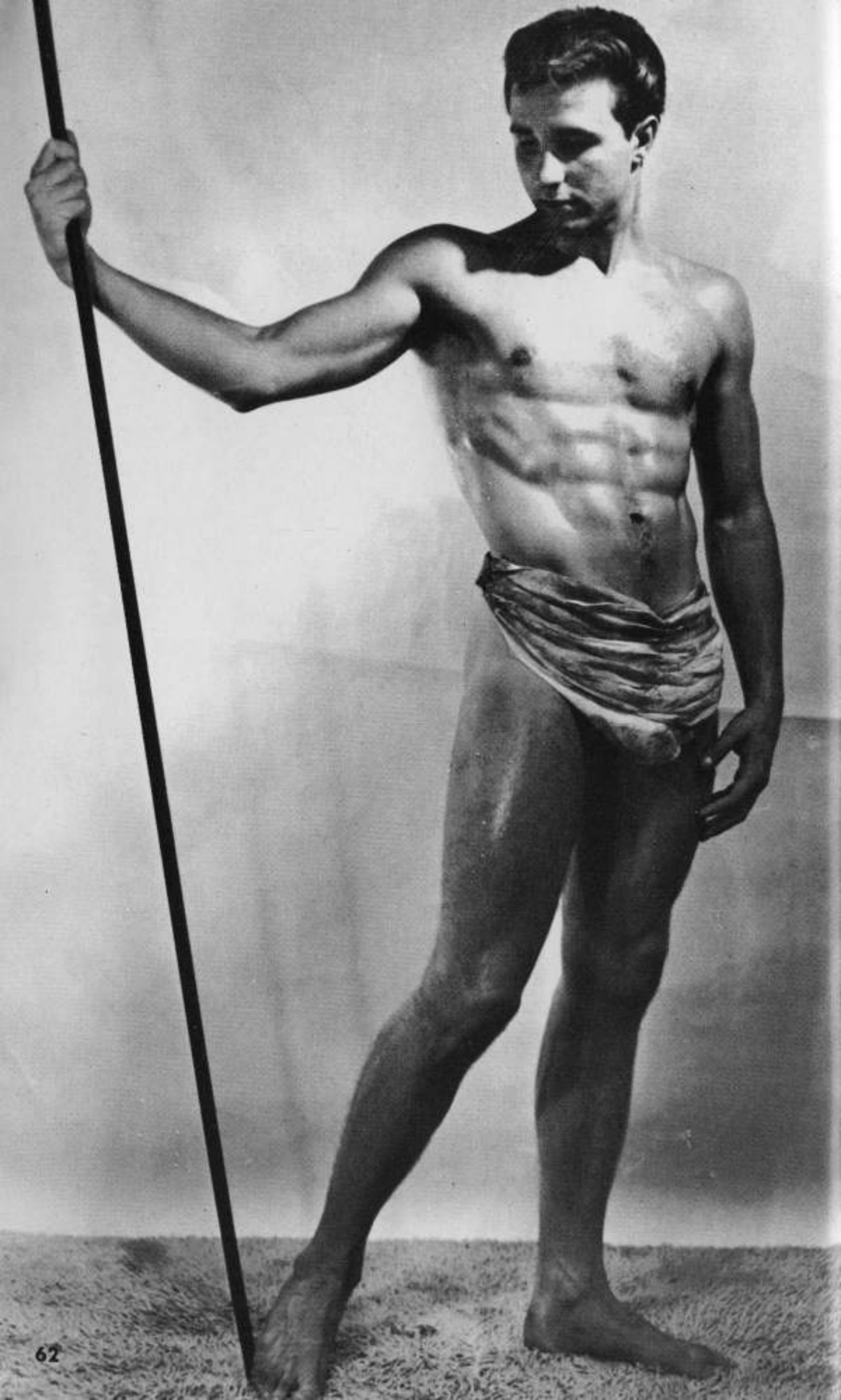

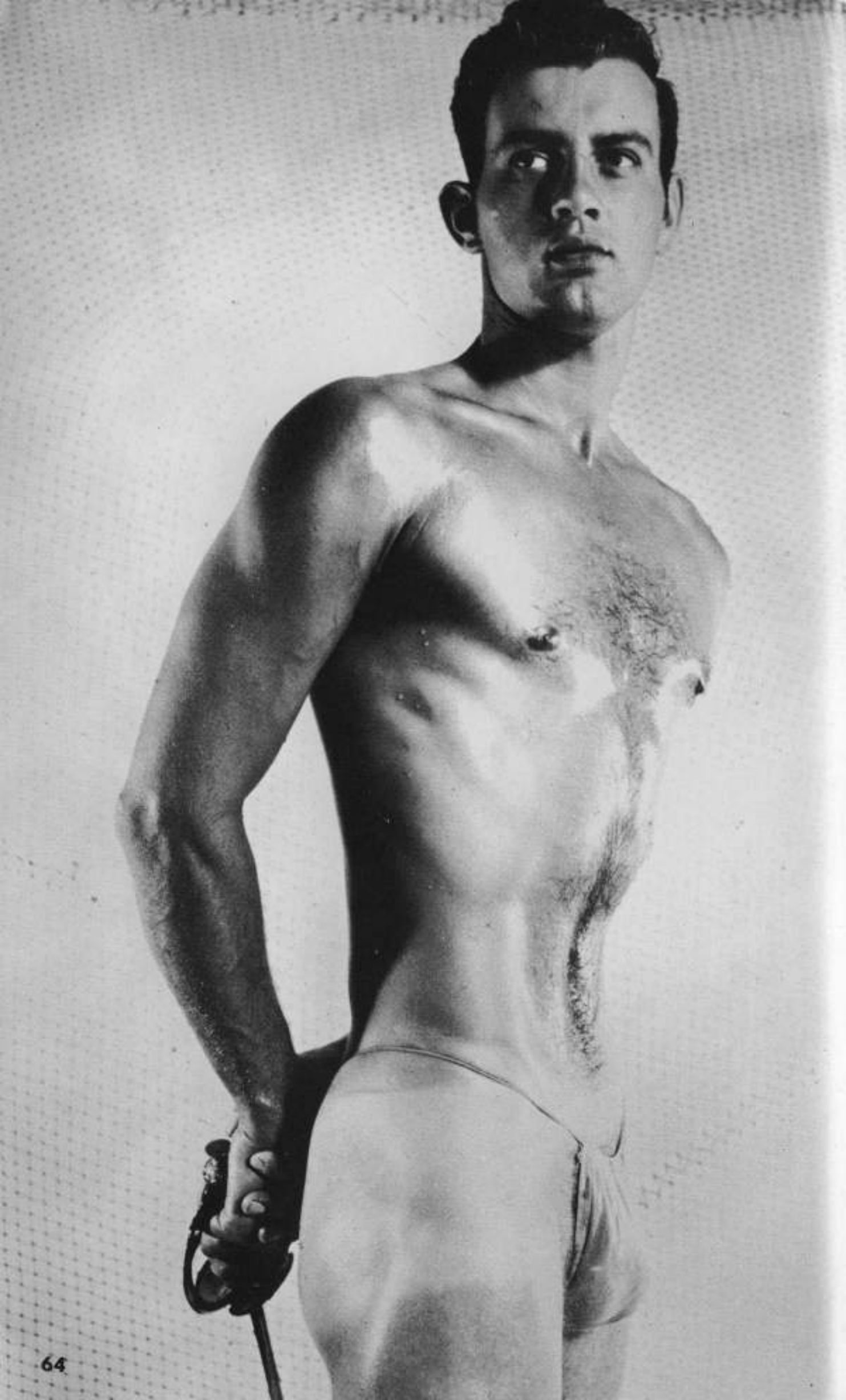

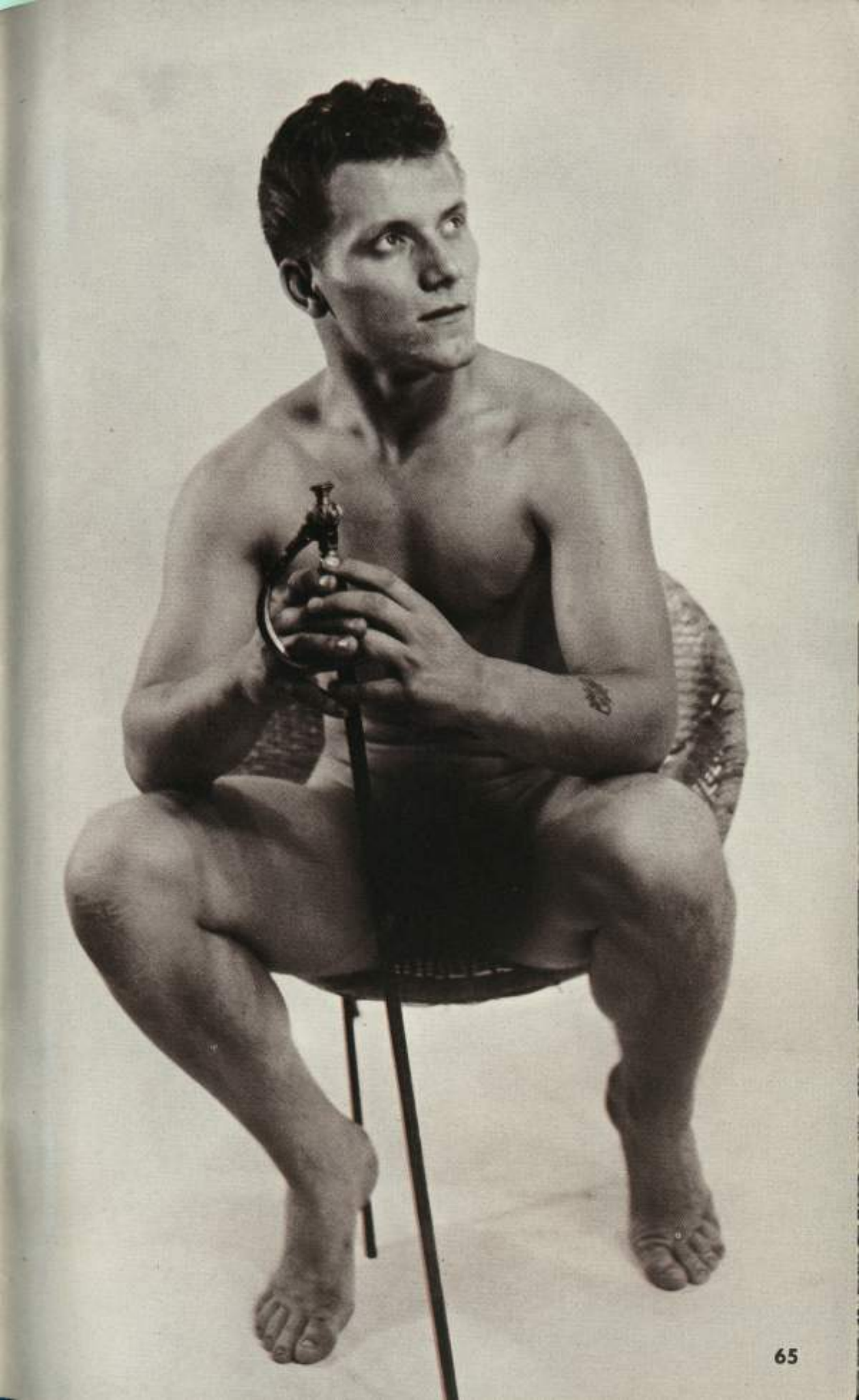

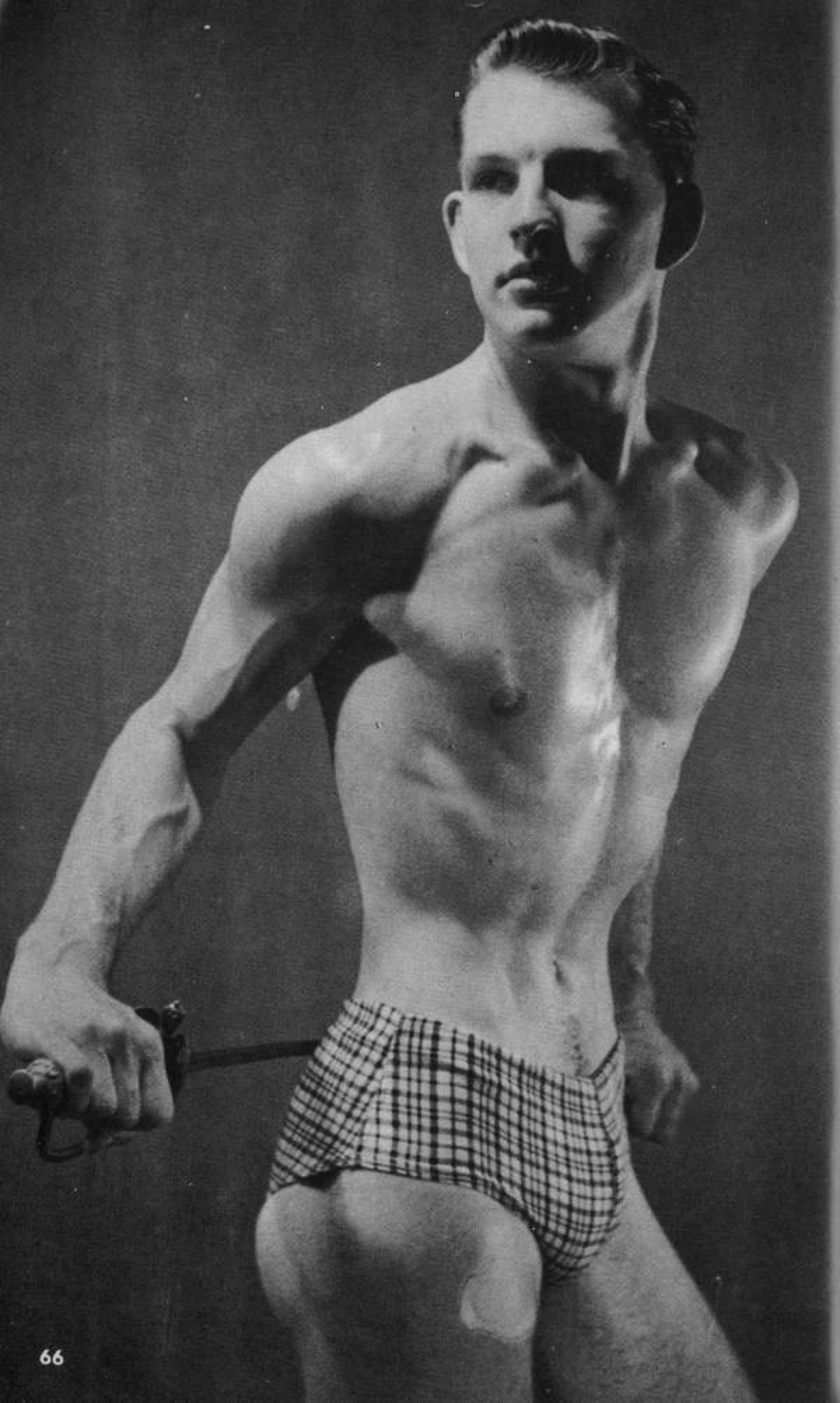

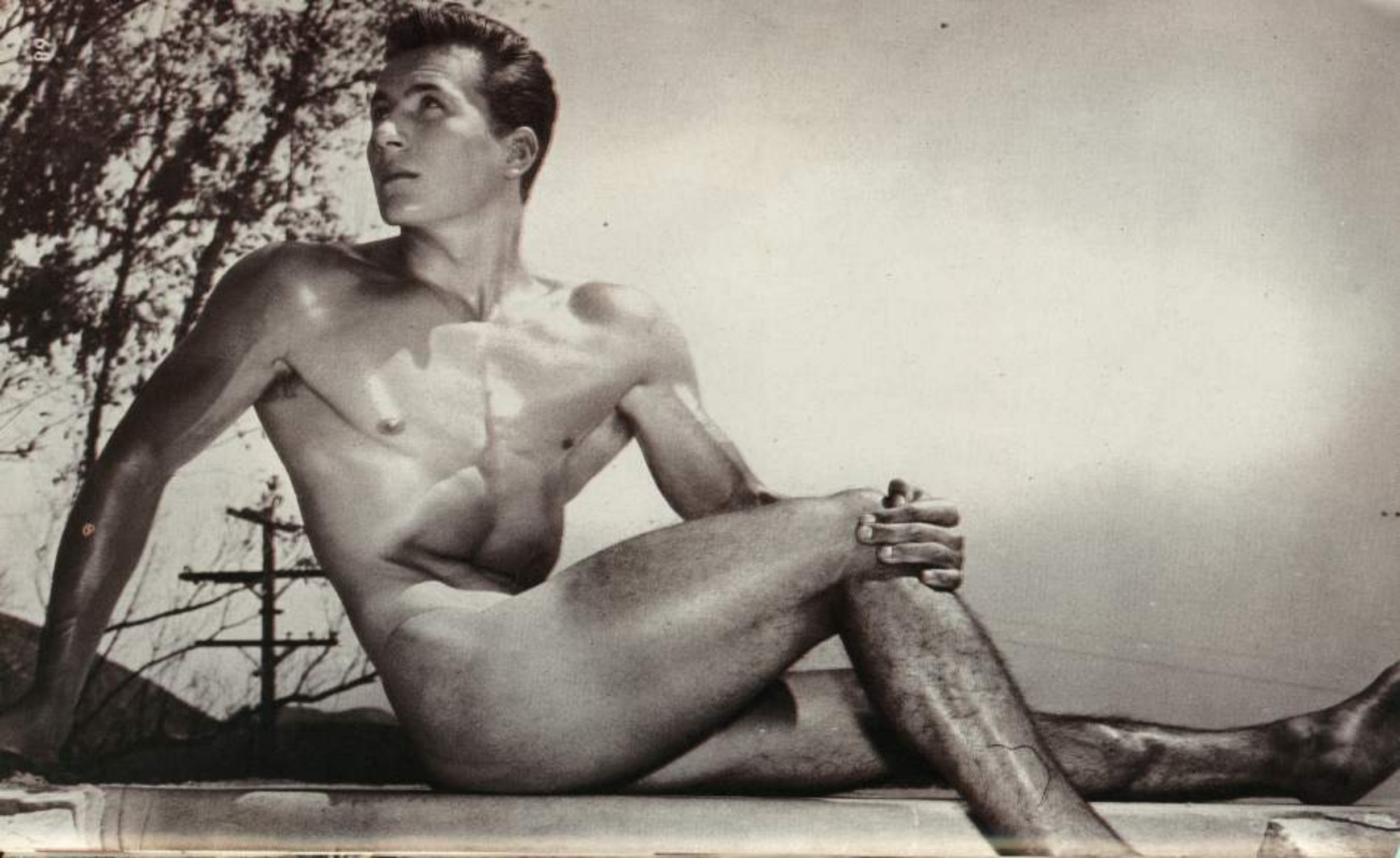

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